



Film Screening and Discussion of *The Hello Girls*

On **Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the National World War I Museum and Memorial, will host a film screening and discussion of ***The Hello Girls***. This program will take place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Hundreds of women, fluent in multiple languages, served within the U.S. Army Signal Corps, playing a pivotal role in wartime communication. They became known as the “Hello Girls.” This documentary screening of *The Hello Girls* tells the captivating story of America’s first women soldiers and their fight for equality and recognition. Film creator Jim Theres with host an audience question and answer session after the screening.



[Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**. This program is presented in partnership with the National World War I Museum and Memorial and is sponsored by the Capitol Federal Foundation®.

National Archives to Offer August Friday Summer Fun Tour

On **Friday, August 17 at 1:00 p.m.** the National Archives public programs staff will offer a free Friday Summer Fun Tour of the facility and *We the People* exhibit. *We the People* highlights the millions of records that give insight into the lives of ordinary people.



The 90-minute tour will provide visitors with an overview about records housed at the National Archives. Tour participants will also learn the history of the Adams-Express Building, which houses the National Archives at

Kansas City, along with other features within the building. Tours require walking or standing for approximately 90-minutes. More information about group tours can be found [here](#). **Space is limited and reservations are required;** call 816-268-8072 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

August 2018

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Upcoming Events

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

- **AUGUST 7** - 6:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. ELECTION DAY POLLING SITE
- **AUGUST 7** - 6:30 P.M. *FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *THE HELLO GIRLS*
- **AUGUST 10** - 4:00 P.M. *HISTORY HAPPY HOUR: *COLD WAR ESPIONAGE*
- **AUGUST 17** - 1:00 P.M. FRIDAY SUMMER FUN TOUR
- **AUGUST 21** - 6:30 P.M. WOMEN’S EQUALITY WEEK PANEL DISCUSSION: *THE HISTORY OF THE EQUAL PAY ACT*

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

August History Happy Hour with the Truman Presidential Library and Museum

On **Friday, August 10 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, the National Archives, in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, will host a *History Happy Hour* program. This program will feature archivist **Sam Rushay** and historian **Lee Lacy** who will discuss **Cold War Espionage**. This program will take place at the Truman Library, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. The History Happy Hour is free for Truman Library members; paid museum admission applies for non-members. [Reservations](#) are requested.

The Americans might be fictional, but the true case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg seems straight out of the Cold War spy saga. After World War II, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was replaced by a new peacetime foreign intelligence organization that was independent of the military and eventually became known as the Central Intelligence Agency. The discovery that nuclear secrets had been stolen and turned over to the Soviet Union intensified suspicions and anxiety about the Soviet threat. Lacy and Rushay will talk about the massive counterintelligence efforts President Truman's administration undertook to root out foreign and domestic spies as the Cold War began and discuss details of the most famous couple accused of selling secrets to the Soviets.



Above: Image courtesy of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Women's Equality Week Program *A Look Back: The History of the Equal Pay Act of 1963*

On **Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host, in partnership with the American Association of University Women-KC Branch, a panel discussion titled **A Look Back: The History of the Equal Pay Act of 1963**. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.



Above: President Kennedy Signs the Equal Pay Act, on June 10, 1963. John F. Kennedy Library White House Photographs, 1960-1964; Cecil Stoughton's White House Photographs, 1961-1963. National Archives Identifier 12000179

The program will include a re-enactment of an oral history interview between historian Shirley Blum Tanzer and Oregon Representative Edith Green in 1977 based upon research published in *Former Members of Congress, Inc.* Green represented Oregon in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1955-1974 and was an advocate for the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title IX. Following the re-enactment, AAUW will facilitate a panel discussion with women describing their own personal experiences in the fight for equal pay. The panel will be moderated by Patricia Cahill; the re-enactment actors are Jane McClain (Tanzer) and Patricia Cahill (Green).

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was filed as a labor law amending the Fair Labor Standards Act, aimed at eliminating wage disparity based upon sex. President John F. Kennedy signed it into law on June 10, 1963.

Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events. Reservations are requested for this **free program**, rsvp to 816-268-8010 or kansascity.educate@nara.gov. This program is presented in partnership with American Association of University Women – KC Branch and the Women's Equality Week Coalition.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Unexpected Research: A Storied Family Heirloom

Editorial Note: this month's Hidden Treasures article is written by National Archives at Kansas City staff archivist Jessica Hopkins whose family has a personal connection to the archival records.

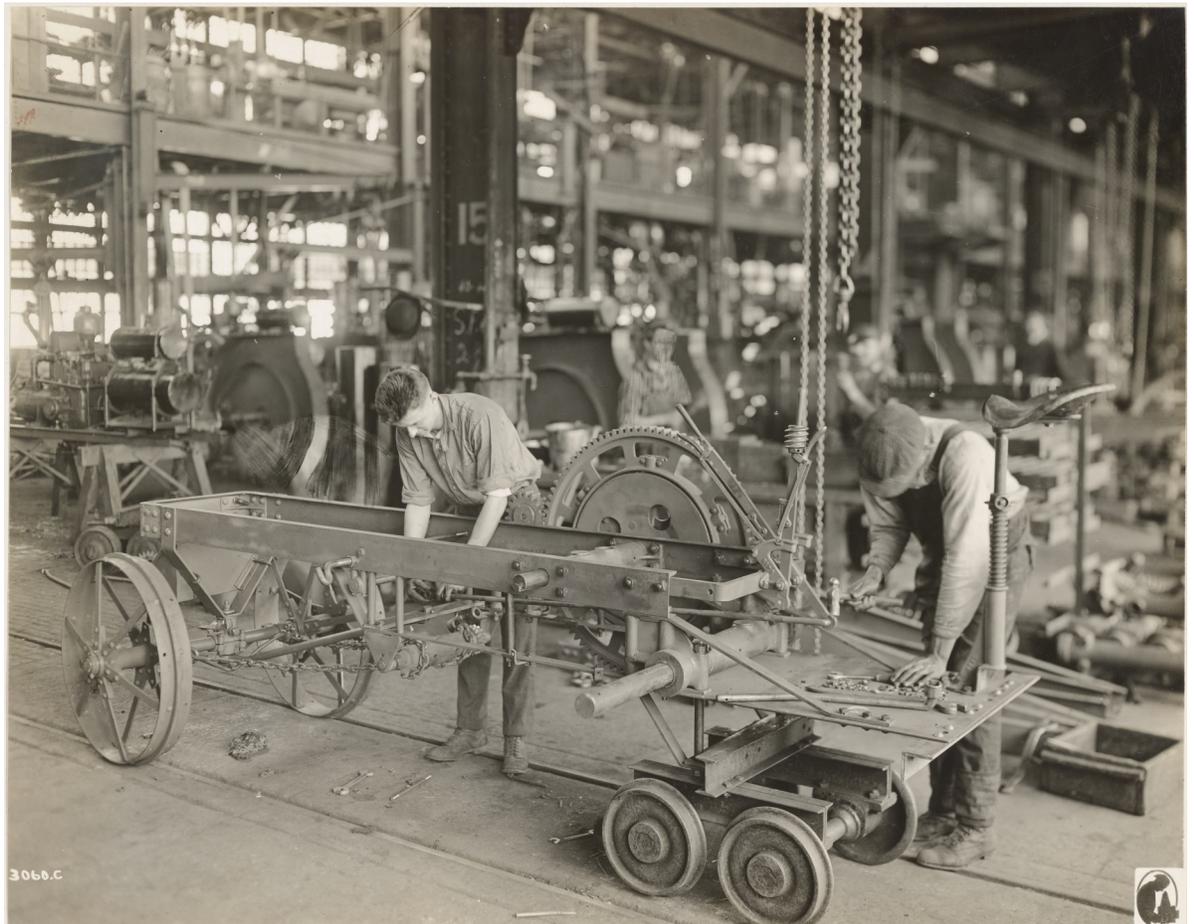
Sitting in a barn off Interstate 70, west of Salina, is my family's restored, fully-functioning Avery Gas-Powered Tractor with Avery wooden separator. Purchased in 1924, the tractor replaced the steam engine that had been used to thrash wheat. The new implement expedited the harvest process and required significantly fewer resources—time, water, coal, mules, horses, and manpower. After its useful thrashing years had passed, Russell County used it to break up rocks south of Russell, Kansas. By the early 1950s, the tractor was salvaged by the family, and briefly used in political parades in western Kansas. The tractor and separator also made occasional appearances thereafter in thrashing bees during the Wilson Harvest Festival.

Recently, I stumbled on records related to the Avery Company in the course of my work as an archivist at the National Archives. A 1919 catalog for the Avery Company and related records were found in "Subject Correspondence Files, 1864-1962" from the Fort Berthold Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Likewise, an intern noted the 1924 bankruptcy case file for the Avery Company while working with records from the U.S. District Court in Peoria, Illinois. Black and white photographs from the War Department of the manufacturing plant in Peoria were located in the National Archives Catalog.

The 1918 black and white photographs capture four different work areas in the Peoria, Illinois, plant. Included is the electric steel furnace in the plant, the tractor assembly, the testing department, and the boxing for overseas shipment. These photographs were part of the "American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918" that were maintained by the Historical Branch, War Plans Division, War Department General Staff. The initial collection of photographs were compiled from a variety of sources by the Committee for Public Information.

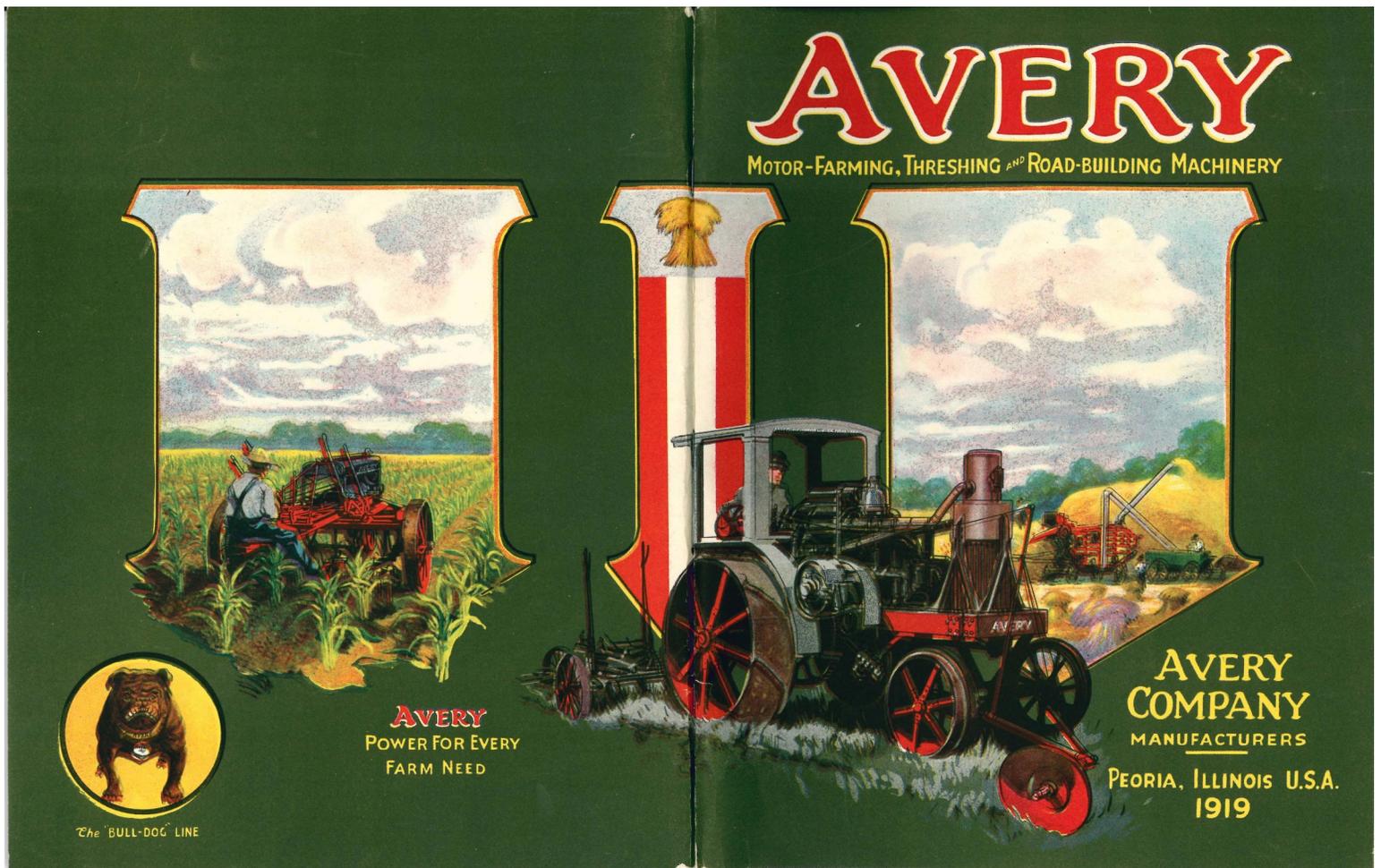
According to the 1919 Avery Company catalog sent to the Fort Berthold Agency, the company strived to provide a durable machine that addressed the needs of the farmer. It was "built of good materials, with good workmanship, that have the best improved features for saving time, labor, and money." They advertised that the Avery "Grain-Saving" Separators could "thrash all kinds of grain, kaffir corn, clover, and other seeds" while the tractors had been "successfully used in all 48 states and 61 foreign countries."

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Above: Assembling tractor in the plant of the Avery Co., Peoria, Ill, Motor Vehicles – Tractors – Manufacture, 1917-1918. Record Group 165, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs; American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918. National Archives at College Park – Still Pictures. National Archives Identifier 45509171.

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Above: Back and front covers of the 1919 Avery Catalog. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Berthold Agency, Aberdeen Area Office; Subject Correspondence Files 1864-1962. National Archives Identifier 6861840.

In the correspondence accompanying the catalog, the Avery Company explains that the tractor parts can be swapped between tractors of varying sizes due to product standardization. After receiving bids from several tractor companies, the Superintendent at the Fort Berthold Agency created an abstract of bids for purchase of a gas tractor-tank-plow. The Avery Company tractor was in the middle price range at \$2,140.00, while Cleveland Tractor Company and O.F. McGray rounded out the top and bottom.

At the Avery Company's peak, it employed more than 4,000 people, provided insurance, and offered an onsite dispensary staffed with two doctors. A cafeteria was also available. However, the agricultural economic downturn in the early 1920s significantly impacted Avery. The company filed for bankruptcy on March 31, 1924, in the U.S. District Court in Peoria, Illinois. (Two of the company's three factories operated in Peoria.) The petition and schedules A and B listed the Company's debt at \$5.9 million and of that, \$5.6 million were unsecured claims. The Company had more than \$8 million in assets from its real estate, stocks, and machinery tools, but comparatively very little cash on hand. According to the property appraisals, the Avery Company owned over \$2.3 million worth of real estate and buildings, and personal property stretching across the Midwest from Stuttgart, Arkansas, to Phoenix, Arizona, and acreage in New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin.

One of the testimonies filed in the bankruptcy case questioned if the Company's lawyers knew of its financial woes prior to the bankruptcy filing; the lawyers refused to answer the question because of attorney-client confidentiality. The file contained a listing of creditors owed, but included with the bundled documents was a listing of employees, their address, and their salaries due as of March 31, 1924. The company owed \$137.50 to M. R. Myhra of Aberdeen, South Dakota, and \$27.50 to Ruth Miller of Averyville, Illinois; the list did not specify their roles within the Company. The voluminous case file contains claims of debt against the Avery Company, correspondence, financial records, referee reports, trustee appointments, and bills of sale. The bankruptcy forced the company to reorganize and sell many of its assets in order to repay its debt.

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By 1925, the company re-emerged as the Avery Power Machinery Company. However, financial woes continued to plague the Company during the Great Depression and the assets were liquidated. It closed its doors permanently by the start of World War II.

Though these records don't tell the personal story of our heirloom, they provide context for a larger understanding of the company that manufactured and sold this product. The interesting nuggets of the company's history make our family genealogy a more robust story.

Note on sources: Records for this article came from the National Archives at Kansas City, National Archives at College Park - Still Pictures Division, and from Ancestry.com. Specifically included are Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court, Northern (Peoria) Division of the Southern District of Illinois, Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1898-1955; Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Berthold Agency, Aberdeen Office Subject Correspondence Files, 1864-1962; Record Group 165, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918. In addition, the July 12, 1963, issue of the *Salina Journal* was used for research.

Upcoming Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

An Introduction to DocsTeach.org and Online Resources from the National Archives

Monday, August 13, at 12:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Friday, August 17 at 3:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Gear up for the 2018-2019 school year with an introduction to DocsTeach.org, the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives. Discover primary sources for teaching history and civics topics. Explore the 12 different document-based activity tools and learn how, with a free DocsTeach account, you can create your own activities or modify existing activities to share with your students. [Registration](#) is required.

Preview of 2018 Distance Learning Programs for Students

Monday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Friday, August 17 at 12:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Discover how you can bring the National Archives to your classroom through interactive, primary source-based distance learning programs! In this special half-hour session, you will preview our K-12 distance learning programs, including new programs for the 2018-2019 school year. [Registration](#) is required.

Women's Voices in the Records of Congress

Wednesday, August 15 at 12:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Get an early look at new education resources and projects in development at the Center for Legislative Archives featuring the records of Congress. This webinar will explore women's voices in the fight for suffrage in the records of the 45th Congress around the time when Senator Aaron Sargent first introduced a woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution. During this webinar, you will receive primary sources and activity suggestions that will help students understand the agency of women in the fight for the right to vote, and evaluate the arguments made for and against woman suffrage by women and men in the 1870s. [Registration](#) is required.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open 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. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.