Common Good Panel Discussion with American Public Square

On Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives in partnership with American Public Square, will host an evening panel discussion on Common Good: A Model for Community Engagement and Racial Equity. This program will take place at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO. Reservations are requested for this free program.

In the fourth program of the KC Common Good series, panelists and community leaders will discuss ways to create a city-wide cooperative effort to address violent crime in Kansas City. They will talk about how and why racial equality and racial equity are keys to reducing crime and violence. Can we create a shared vision in which all Metro residents feel invested in making Kansas City less violent? Program panelists include: Irene Caudillo, El Centro; Terry Dunn, JE Dunn Construction; Rev. Wallace Hartsfield, Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church; with Rabbi Mark Levin, Congregation Beth Torah as the moderator.

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Upcoming Events

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

• DEC. 4 - 6:30 P.M.
  *Panel Discussion: Common Good
• DEC. 10 - 6:00 P.M.
  Film: Up from the Bottoms
• DEC. 25 - Facility Closed: Christmas Holiday
• JAN. 1 - Facility Closed: New Year’s Day Holiday

*Denotes Activity is Offsite.

Upcoming Facility Reminders and New Research Room Rules

- Monday, December 24 - Research Rooms close early for Christmas Holiday.
- Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Holiday - facility closed.
- Tuesday, January 1 - New Year's Day Holiday - facility closed.

The National Archives Research Services Division is committed to improving the experience of all users of archival records in the custody of the National Archives while also ensuring the safety of the records. To that end, we have finalized a common set of rules which will be implemented in archival research rooms nationwide on Tuesday, January 2, 2019. The rules are intended to provide clear instructions to both staff and researchers on the research room:

- registration process;
- entry and exit procedures;
- items authorized and not authorized for use in the research rooms;
- pull requests;
- records handling guidelines; and
- copying and equipment approvals.

The rules reflect the National Archives’ current approach to holdings security and are intended to ensure a consistent customer service experience across all facilities. Questions can be sent to kansascity.archives@nara.gov.
Hidden Treasures from the Stack
Safety for the Nation?: Identification of Alien Enemies during WWII

“... I describe the identification programs as another part of the job of making America safe — safety for the nation against the small minority of alien enemies who may be contemplating trouble, and safety for the great majority of aliens who are above suspicion.”

—Francis Biddle, Attorney General of the United States (February 1, 1942)

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, the country undertook a new home front measure to register non-naturalized immigrants from Germany, Italy, and Japan—individuals termed alien enemies. The process, which was introduced in President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Presidential Proclamation No. 2537, required individuals to visit their local post office to complete an application and fingerprinting. A formal Certificate of Identification was later delivered which had to remain in their possession for the duration of the war.

The application process ran from February 2 through February 28, 1942. Individuals along the West Coast were registered during the first week, as the coast had been deemed a potentially critical area, and all other states were completed in the following weeks. All totaled, more than one million alien enemies were documented through the process.

During a February 1, 1942, speech over the Columbia Broadcasting System, Attorney General Francis Biddle addressed both alien enemies and the citizen population. He explained the basic requirements of the new program and obligation for participation, but also cautioned “Let us not be hasty in our judgment of them. Let us not deprive them of their jobs. Let us not be suspicious of them unless we have grounds for suspicion. Let us not persecute these people as an outlet of our emotions against the bandits who are at the moment in control of the nations where they were born.”

The identification program coincided with other blanket regulations regarding alien enemies. Among these were stipulations that alien enemies could not possess cameras, short-wave radios, weapons, or other equipment that may be used against the United States. As with the enemy alien registration that occurred during World War I, there were also rules about where individuals could travel, reside, and work within the United States.


Beyond the regulations, the identification program was one part of a series of Roosevelt’s presidential proclamations following the bombing at Pearl Harbor that paved the way to Executive Order 9066 which authorized the evacuation and internment of individuals identified as alien enemies. Over 136,000 German, Italian, and Japanese Americans were relocated under the order – all lost personal liberties; most lost homes and property as well. Although President Roosevelt suspended Executive Order 9066 in December 1944, it was not until December 29, 1945 that President Harry S. Truman revoked the regulations governing the issuance of certificates of identification.

Records of the 1942 Certificate of Identification program can be found within the Alien Case Files (A-Files) for individuals of German, Italian, and Japanese descent. Often, just the application appears in the A-File for an alien enemy, but there are occasions where the certificate itself is present as well. Learn more about the A-Files and how to request copies here.
2018-2019 Film Series with American Jazz Museum and Greater KC Black History Study Group

On Monday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m., the National Archives will host an evening film screening of *Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream*. Post-film discussion will be led by Dr. Delia Gillis, professor of history at the University of Central Missouri.

*Up From the Bottoms* traces the experiences of African Americans, now in their 80s and 90s who migrated north in the 1940s to the war factories in the north, specifically those in Michigan. The film is narrated by Emmy, Tony, and Academy Award-winning actress Cicely Tyson and features interviews with activist Dick Gregory.

Since its release, the film has been incorporated into the curriculum at schools in the state of Michigan as an example of first-person accounts of struggle and sacrifice. This program is presented in partnership with the Greater KC Black History Study Group and the American Jazz Museum as a part of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History 2019 theme of Black Migrations.

Registrations are requested for this free program by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be received five business days in advance.

Upcoming Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

**Penpals from the Past: American Indian Schools in the United States**
Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time

Is there anything more compelling than a letter from a penpal? What if you and your students could read letters, or even see Christmas lists, from American Indian students living in boarding schools in the past – or see images of students in their classrooms? Join us for a look at some examples. Learn about their experiences; and engage in the formerly complex process of accessing American Indian boarding and day school records, now made easier through our Native Communities Program. Registration is required. This webinar is part of our Native American professional development series. Each program features new resources for locating and using Federal records related to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Right: Native Americans from Southeastern Idaho, ca. 1897. Full citation and education ideas available on DocsTeach.

**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 #KCArchieves. Find and follow us on Instagram at: kansascity.archives. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.