



National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

Dr. Hasia Diner to Lecture on American Jewish Encounters in World War I

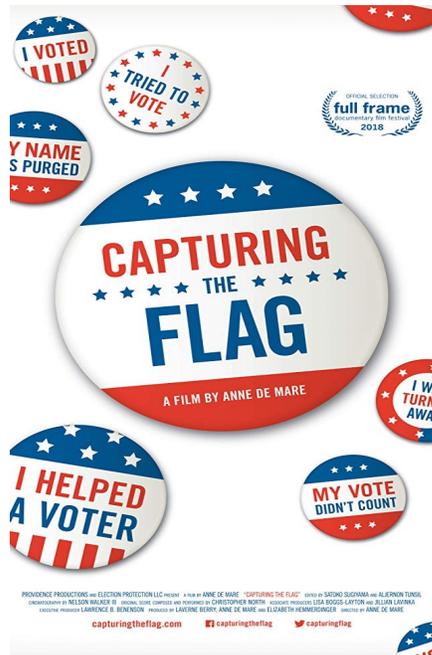
On **Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the National World War I Museum, will host **Dr. Hasia Diner** who will lecture on **American Jewish Encounters in World War I**. This program will take place at the National World War Museum and Memorial, 2 West Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

World War I affected Jews tremendously in the United States. Jews experienced the war as Americans, Jews in a mostly Christian nation with little exposure to Judaism, and as people with a majority of their friends and family living in Europe's war zone. Diner will explore three dimensions of American Jewish encounters with WWI. This program is sponsored by Bank of Blue Valley/Regnier Family Foundation and is presented in conjunction with the centennial exhibition *For Liberty: American Jewish Experience in WWI*. It is offered in partnership with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and the National World War I Museum and Memorial.



2018-2019 Film Series with American Jazz Museum and Greater KC Black History Study Group

On **Monday, October 15 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives will host a film screening of **Capturing the Flag**. This program is presented in partnership with the American Jazz Museum and the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.



Three old friends travel to the North Carolina county named 2016 “posterchild” for voter suppression, intent on proving that the big idea of American democracy can be defended by small acts of individual citizens. *Capturing The Flag* begins in the fall of 2016 as Laverne Berry, Steven Miller and Claire Wright prepare to travel from New York City to North Carolina to do voter protection work at the polls. Through their eyes and efforts the human dimension of democracy comes into focus. *Capturing The Flag* explores complex issues and emotions around voting rights that are playing out all across America.

To make a reservation for this **free program**, [email](#) or call 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be received five business days in advance of the program.

October 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

- **Oct. 8** - COLUMBUS DAY: FACILITY CLOSED
- **Oct. 11** - 6:30 P.M. *LECTURE: AMERICAN JEWISH ENCOUNTERS IN WWI
- **Oct. 15** - 6:00 P.M. FILM: CAPTURING THE FLAG
- **Oct. 18** - 6:30 P.M. *LECTURE: HITLER'S FIRST WAR
- **Oct 23.** - 6:00 P.M. *PANEL DISCUSSION: THE GOOD FIGHT FOR RESOURCES
- **Oct 24** - ALL DAY: VIRUTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

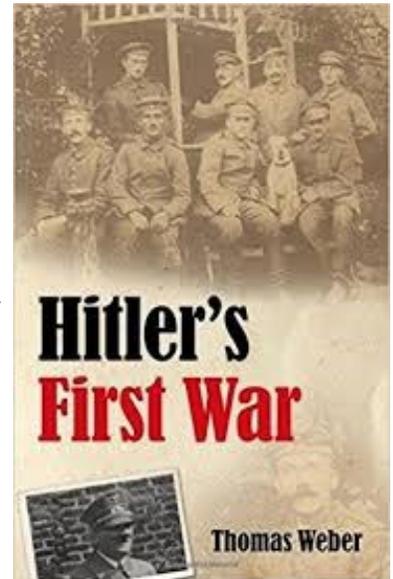
*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

Author Thomas Weber to Discuss *Hitler's First War*

On **Thursday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.**, National Archives in partnership with the National World War I Museum, will host author **Thomas Weber**, who will discuss *Hitler's First War*. This program will place at the National World War Museum and Memorial, 2 West Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Scholars often argue that World War I served as the perfect crucible for Hitler's rise to power. Award-winning author Weber thinks otherwise. Weber will discuss Hitler's formative experiences as a soldier demonstrating how and why the dictator aggressively policed the myth of his wartime experiences.

Examining Hitler's political epiphany in 1919, Weber shows how the path from 1918-1919 to Auschwitz was far less twisted than commonly believed. Weber's lecture is presented in conjunction with the centennial exhibition *Crucible: Life & Death in 1918*. This program is offered in partnership with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and National World War I Museum and Memorial. A book signing will immediately follow the lecture.



The Good Fight for Resources Panel Discussion with American Public Square

On **Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with American Public Square, will host an evening panel discussion on *The Good Fight for Resources*. This program will take place at Unity Temple on the Plaza, 707 West 47th Street, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.



Every day in Kansas City good people do good things. Community advocacy organizations fight the good fight to improve this city and to provide services to all Kansas Citizens. But resources are limited, and groups compete for the resources that are available. Can groups work together effectively to make the most of the resources we have? How can organizations cooperate without coopting each other's missions? At the second program in American Public Square's KC Common Good series, an expert panel consisting of a philanthropist, a public policy scholar, and leaders of nonprofit organizations will discuss the challenges community advocates face as they compete for resources.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?

We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can find us on Instagram @kansascity.archives or tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.

All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000.

By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



National Archives to Host Virtual Genealogy Fair on Wednesday, October 24

On **Wednesday, October 24**, the National Archives will host the sixth annual virtual Genealogy Fair via webcast. Viewers can participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event on YouTube. You can watch the sessions at your convenience. Welcome remarks from the Archivist of the United States, **David Ferriero**, will begin at 10:00 a.m. EST.

The National Archives and Records Administration holds the permanently valuable records of the Federal government. These include records of interest to genealogists, such as pension files, ship passenger lists, census and military personal records. For information on National Archives holdings see www.archives.gov.

Live captioning will be available online. If you require an alternative or additional accommodation for an event (such as a sign-language interpreter), please send an email to KYR@nara.gov or call 202-357- 5260 in advance.

A schedule of the events can be found [online](#). This year's topics include an overview of the National Archives Catalog; records related to Former Slaves and Slave Owners; Civil War Widows' Pension Files; personnel files related to the Tennessee Valley Authority; photographs from the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps; and military files for Army and Navy nurses. All session times are offered via Eastern Standard Time.

2018 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 • 10 A.M.–4 P.M. EASTERN

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE AND NO REGISTRATION

YouTube WATCH LIVE

#GENFAIR2018

SCHEDULE AND HANDOUTS WWW.ARCHIVES.GOV/CALENDAR/GENEALOGY-FAIR

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Upcoming Facility Information and Reminders

- **Monday, October 8** - Columbus Day - facility closed to the public.
- **Tuesday, November 6** - Election Day - the National Archives at Kansas City is a polling site. Increased foot traffic and limited parking are expected.
- **Monday, November 12** - Veterans Day Holiday Observed - facility closed to the public.

Hidden Treasures from the Stack

Final Act: The Bankruptcy of John Barrymore

There may be no family more enduring on the American stage and screen than that of the Barrymore family. Born into an already distinguished theatrical lineage in 1882, John Barrymore became one of the most noted actors of the early twentieth century. Known as the "Great Profile" and adept at both comedy and drama, he was as well regarded for his abilities as a thespian as he was his off-stage drama.

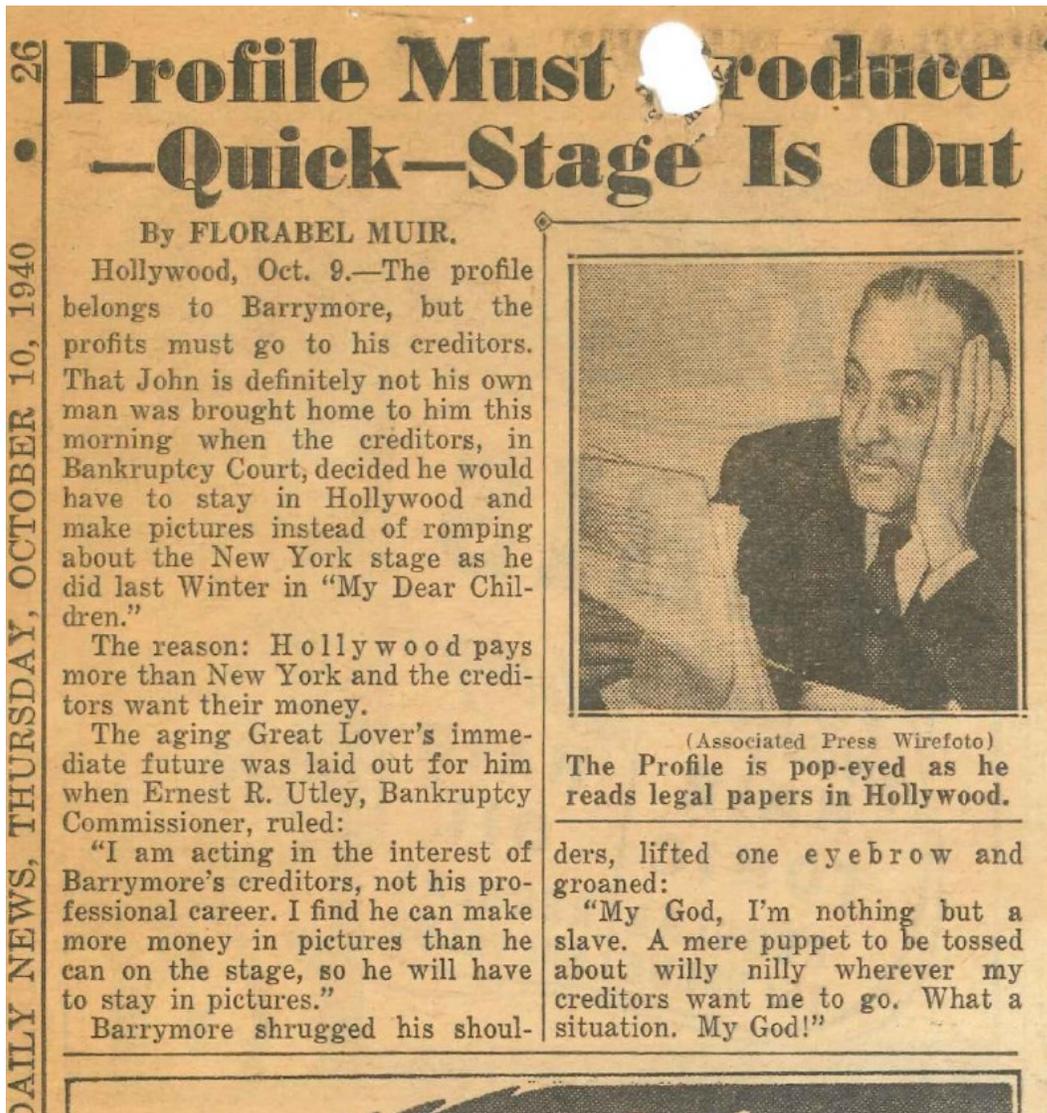
When he filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, Los Angeles on June 6, 1940, Barrymore's bankruptcy was not even his first. He previously filed for bankruptcy in 1936 and was already considering filing a second time by 1939. Over-extended by a luxurious lifestyle as well as medical and tax debt, Barrymore saw no other option. Initially, he hoped that by returning to work on screen, he would continue to earn enough to pay off his debt. His assets were placed into a receivership, and he was given an allowance to pay living expenses (which included retaining his chauffeur and secretary among other perks). Unfortunately, Barrymore was sixty years old and in poor health. He died on May 29, 1942, unable to repay the debts. With no one to earn for the perpetually broke John Barrymore, it was time to liquidate assets to meet the creditors' obligations.

A variety of odd and competing interests took hold, compounded by the fact that Barrymore's primary debt was to the Internal Revenue Service and the State of California for back taxes. This debt took precedence under bankruptcy law over payment to general creditors, such as the doctors who treated Barrymore over many years, and others who

provided him with services. One physician and creditor, Dr. Harold Thomas Hyman, wrote the trustee, Ernest R. Utley, several "discourteous" letters regarding postcard notices notifying creditors of the various requests for reimbursement by the referee, trustee, and others working on the case. He posited to Utley, "in equity if not in law, as to why any attorney should be paid anything at all when I, (the physician who restored to Mr. Barrymore such health as he had to enable him to resume his work) should receive only your postal cards." Utley assured Dr. Hyman there would be no need for him to "pass the hat" and to assure him that while they cannot control the fees attorneys ask for, they can control what they receive.

Irritated doctors aside, the trustee had other matters involving attorneys to deal with. A letter to Dr. Hyman detailed the entirety of the case, including a situation arising out of a possible conflict of interest with one of Barrymore's attorney's which prevented it from being closed. Roland Rich Wooley, an attorney for Barrymore, was hired in 1940 after the bankruptcy

(Story continued on page 7.)



Above: Newspaper clipping from the *New York Daily News* in regard to his filing for bankruptcy. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States; District Court for the Central (Los Angeles) Division of the Southern District of California, Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1907-1950, case #36471, John Barrymore.

Carton Number	Quantity	Description
	(1	Framed Silhouettes (Ivory Frame J.L-1815)
	(1	" Picture (Water Front Stores)
	(1	" " (Battle with Pirates)
	(1	" Photo (Louisa Drew)
	(1	" " (Mrs. Georgia Drew Barrymore & Children)
	(1	" Picture (Boston Tea Party)
	(1	" " (By J. H. Pyle)
	(3	" Photos
1	(1	" Print (Armor Shop)
	(1	" " (Print ")
	(1	" Embroidered Plaque
	(1	" Print (Game)
	(1	" " (Parrot)
	(1	" " (Peg Leg)
	(1	" Lot of Flies
	(1	" Mountain Scene
	(1	Photo (Man & Woman) (Framed)
	(1	Framed Programme (Hooleys Theatre)
	(1	Token to Jack Barrymore A.B.)
	(from Crew of Super)
	(1	(Letter from A. Lincoln to Mrs. Louisa Drew)
	((Executive Mansion Washington D.C.)
	((dated June 25 - 1864 in Frame)
14	1	Bronze Dinner Chime
	(1	Paper Sack with Cigarette Pictures
15	(1	Set Balances & Weights
	(1	Plaster Paris Piece
28	(1	Lot Costumes and clothing
25	1	Lot Costomes and clothing
	(1	Lot Rod Holders and Covers
	(1	Table Lamp Standard (No Shade)
	(1	Wood Trophy - Trans-Pac-Yacht Race 1926
7	(1	Camera Case (No Camera)
	(1	Box Wigs
	(1	Tumbler (Broken)
	(1	Picture of John Barrymore (by Sargent)
	(1	Oil Painting - (Ships)
	(1	(Framed Membership Certificate)
	((Ladies of Newberry Port)
	(1	Framed Picture of J. Barrymore
16	(4	Prints Green Frames
	(1	Framed Print Hogarth 1736
	(4	" Pictures by J. Barrymore
	(1	" " (Glass Broken)
	(1	(Certificate issued to J. Barrymore)
	((for having climbed Mont Blanc)
	(1	Framed Crayon - St. Teresa
	(1	Unframed Print (German Pugilist)
53	(1	Framed Pastel (Black Frame)
	(1	" Photo (J. Barrymore)
Gordon W. Levoy, Lionel Barrymore, Gene Fowler, executors of the estate of John Barrymore, deceased. By <u>Earle E. Moss</u>		

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EARL E. MOSS
LOS ANGELES
TRINITY 9905
-4-

Summary of Debts and Assets

(From the Statements of the Debtor in Schedules A and B)

		Dollars	Cents
Schedule A. 1—a	Wages.....		140.00
Schedule A. 1—b (1)	Taxes due United States.....		14,000.00
Schedule A. 1—b (2)	Taxes due States..... Due State of California		4,711.07
Schedule A. 1—b (3)	Taxes due counties, districts and municipalities.....		
Schedule A. 1—c (1)	Debts due any person, including the United States, having priority by laws of the United States.....		
Schedule A. 1—c (2)	Rent having priority.....		550.00
Schedule A. 2	Secured claims.....		22,972.13
Schedule A. 3	Unsecured claims.....		
Schedule A. 4	Notes and bills which ought to be paid by other parties thereto None		
Schedule A. 5	Accommodation paper..... None		
Schedule A, total			47,313.40
Schedule B. 1	Real estate..... None		
Schedule B. 2—a	Cash on hand..... None		
Schedule B. 2—b	Negotiable and non-negotiable instruments and securities..... None		
Schedule B. 2—c	Stocks in trade..... None		
Schedule B. 2—d	Household goods..... Clothes and wearing apparel -amt unknown		
Schedule B. 2—e	Books, prints and pictures..... Under writ of attachment, amt unknown.		
Schedule B. 2—f	Horses, cows and other animals..... None		
Schedule B. 2—g	Automobiles and other vehicles..... None		
Schedule B. 2—h	Farming stock and implements..... None		
Schedule B. 2—i	Shipping and shares in vessels..... None		
Schedule B. 2—j	Machinery, fixtures, and tools..... None		
Schedule B. 2—k	Patents, copyrights, and trade-marks..... None		
Schedule B. 2—l	Other personal property..... None		
Schedule B. 3—a	Debts due on open accounts..... None		
Schedule B. 3—b	Policies of insurance..... None		
Schedule B. 3—c	Unliquidated claims..... Interest in profits of play-amt unknown		
Schedule B. 3—d	Deposits of money in banks and elsewhere..... None		
Schedule B. 4	Property in reversion, remainder, expectancy or trust..... None		
Schedule B. 5	Property claimed as exempt..... clothes-personal wearing apparel		
Schedule B. 6	Books, deeds and papers..... No value		
Schedule B, total			Amt. Unknown

John Barrymore - Petitioner

(1)

Above: A summary document of debts and assets of John Barrymore. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States; District Court for the Central (Los Angeles) Division of the Southern District of California, Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1907-1950, case #36471, John Barrymore.

(Continued from page 4.)

was filed, to secure a divorce from his fourth wife. He charged a flat fee of \$10,000. However, Wooley failed to disclose the fee to the court. As the attorney for Barrymore, he petitioned the court for a certain amount of money to be paid his client each week for living expenses, higher than most, due to his occupation. Once the money had been paid to Barrymore, Wooley paid himself out of the weekly allowance the amount of \$5,950 toward the divorce fee. This action led to the referee ordering the amount, plus \$619.00 be repaid to the court. Wooley appealed, and Utley's decision was struck down by the district court, owing to his lack of jurisdiction in the matter. The case was sent to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

If angry doctors and deceptive attorneys weren't enough, the attorneys for the estate ended up in quite a predicament themselves. After Barrymore's death, the attorneys for the executors of the estate took issue with the accounting and the auction firm hired to dispose of the Barrymore household. The auction report lists pages of art, paintings, books (many first editions), furniture and antiques, assorted rifles, pistols, swords, and a somewhat disturbing assortment of taxidermy, including a Kodiak bear shot by Barrymore himself - all in all, what one might expect to find in the home of a gentleman of his time and stature. Initially pleased Gordon Levoy, attorney for the executors, demanded the trustee explain how property bought only months prior to the sale (much of Barrymore's estate was purchased after he filed bankruptcy with his allowance) could fetch such low prices. Several items such as a "large rug we purchased several months ago and which has hardly been used...at \$8.00 a yard (or \$475.00)...can be obtained in a second-hand market at a minimum market price of at least \$6.00 a yard". This equated to a \$475.00 new rug worth \$350 on the second-hand rug market per the estate, being sold for a mere \$65.00 at auction - a bargain for the individual who carried home John Barrymore's rug, but not to the estate. Other items included love seats also purchased at \$475.00 "only a few months ago, and were not used half a dozen times" selling for \$170.00 in the "weak hours" of the sale. The attorneys were indignant about the prices, the accounting, and the fact that the proceeds were being diverted "into every channel except for the payment of funeral bill of the debtor." Which brings about the sad and odd circumstance surrounding the final expenses of John Barrymore.

As attorney for the estate, Levoy explained in a letter to Referee Utley, he was the one to make arrangements for burial due to the "inability of the family to interfere in his personal matters." Assuming as he made arrangements that the Receiver would have enough to "cover the burial expenses of this great man," Levoy proceeded to incur a \$2,500 bill with the Pierce Brothers funeral home. Levoy claimed that as he made arrangements, he warned the Pierce Brothers there might not be enough left in the estate to pay their fees. Something went awry in this communication, the Pierce Brothers did not recall the conversation occurring quite as Levoy did. To his surprise, he was notified by letter that the Pierce Brothers were holding him personally liable for the debt. The credit manager called the report from their secretary a "revelation" and recalled receiving "unqualified assurance that the account would be paid." They had also been assured that Mr. Lionel Barrymore, brother of the deceased, would underwrite the expense if the estate came up short. One can surmise the credit manager may have been in a bit of hot water with the management of Pierce Brothers, as he "assured the management that the credit arrangement with you was certain and satisfactory." Levoy responded with a rather insidious letter to Mr. Pierce directly, warning that if this was typical of their business relations, "one would become fearful of doing any further business with that company."

Barrymore's estate and bankruptcy were finally closed in 1945, five years after his initial filing and three after his death. It is only fitting that a man capable of producing great drama in all aspects of his life should beget a bankruptcy proceeding worthy of the stage. For more information about bankruptcy case files, please visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).



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.