

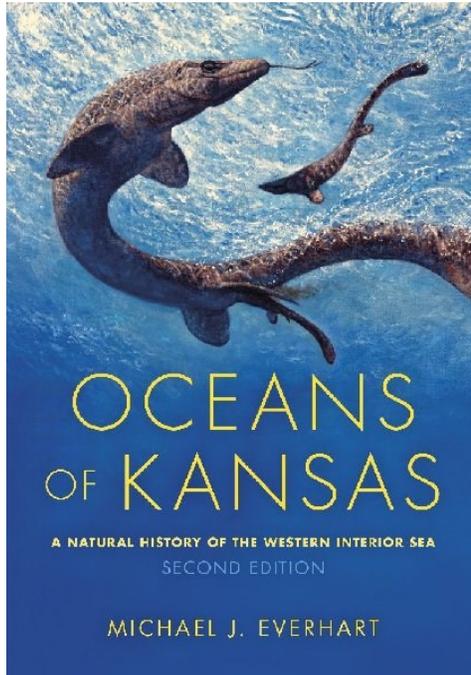


National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

Michael J. Everhart to Discuss *Oceans of Kansas*

On **Monday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Park University will host author **Michael J. Everhart** who will discuss his book ***Oceans of Kansas***. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Revised, updated, and expanded with the latest interpretations and fossil discoveries, the second edition of *Oceans of Kansas* adds new twists to the fascinating story of the vast inland sea that once engulfed central North America during the Age of Dinosaurs. Giant sharks, marine reptiles called mosasaurs, pteranodons, and birds with teeth all flourished in and around these shallow waters. Their abundant and well-preserved remains were sources of great excitement in the scientific community when first discovered in the 1860s and continue to yield exciting discoveries 150 years later. Everhart vividly captures the history of these startling finds over the decades and re-creates in unforgettable detail these animals from our distant past and the world in which they lived - above, within, and on the shores of America's ancient inland sea.



Requests for ADA accommodations must be received five business days in advance. *This program is presented in collaboration with Park University.*

Program Note: This event is a continuation of the natural history program offerings begun in 2016 with a program highlighting the Parkvillia northcutti fossil. Both the National Archives at Kansas City and Park University house records and materials related to fossil research in the Midwest. The public is invited to research these materials.

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.

June 2019

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Upcoming Events

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

- **JUNE 10 - 6:00 P.M.**
AUTHOR LECTURE:
OCEANS OF KANSAS BY
MICHAEL J. EVERHART
- **JUNE 18 - ALL DAY**
ELECTION DAY: POLLING
SITE
- **JUNE 19 - 6:30 P.M.**
PANEL DISCUSSION:
*WORLD WAR I VALOR
MEDAL REVIEW**

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

World War I Valor Medal Review Panel Discussion

On **Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will co-present a panel discussion titled **World War I Valor Medal Review**. This program will take place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in the J.C. Nichols Auditorium, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Since 1941, Congress and the Department of Defense have reviewed the military's process for awarding valor medals to ensure minority veterans were recognized equitably. No review has yet occurred for World War I veterans. Join members of the Valor Medals Review Task Force for a discussion on their work to recognize and honor the WWI veterans who were denied the Medal of Honor due to race.



In April 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate introduced separate bills to require the systematic review of minority veterans who served in World War I. The legislation, if signed into law, will require the Department of Defense to carry out a systematic review of

select members of the U.S. Armed Forces, who, in spite of valorous deeds, may have been denied the Medal of Honor due to race. The bills also waive the statute of limitations associated with any cases identified by the review, authorizing the award of a Medal of Honor to any individuals identified by the DOD in the study.

The Valor Medals Review is being conducted by Park University's George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War and the Valor Medals Review Task Force, which was formed in 2018 in conjunction with the Foundation for the Commemoration of the World Wars on behalf of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission.

A Park University Spencer Cave Black History Month lecture in February 2016 that featured a discussion about the role a white Park alumnus and World War I hero played as the leader of the mostly black 369th Regiment of New York (known as the "Harlem Hellfighters") served as the inspiration of a multi-partner initiative to undertake this review. The Valor Medals Review is being conducted by the University's George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War and the Valor Medals Review Task Force which was formed in August 2018 in conjunction with the Foundation for the Commemoration of the World Wars on behalf of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission. The Robb Centre's namesake was a 1912 Park University graduate and a 1919 Medal of Honor recipient.

Panelists for the program include Bridget Locke, Director of Strategic Communications, Park University; Dr. Timothy Westcott, Associate Professor of History and Director, George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War, Park University; and will be moderated by Kimberlee Ried, Public Affairs Specialist, National Archives and Records Administration. *This program is presented in partnership with the National World War I Museum and Memorial and Park University.*

Upcoming Summer Facility Reminders

- **Tuesday, June 18** - Election Day - the National Archives at Kansas City is a polling site. Increased foot traffic and limited parking is expected.
- **Thursday, July 4** - Independence Day Holiday - facility closed.
- **Monday, September 2** - Labor Day Holiday - facility closed.



Hidden Treasures from the Stack

An Eyewitness Account of the Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg

In May 1863, Samuel Weaver applied for a patent that would eventually be issued as Patent 40,970 for a Portable Photographic Gallery. The patent is for a portable booth where photographs could be taken under a more controlled environment. However, the real story in this patent case file is not the patent itself. The file contains a rare eyewitness account from the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg. Why this letter from Samuel Weaver to his brother William ended up in his patent case file is all thanks to an unknown Mr. Jenkins.

On November 26, 1863, Samuel Weaver wrote a letter to his brother. In the first page of the letter, Samuel Weaver asks his brother to attend to some business for him by paying \$20.00 to William Holloway at the U.S. Patent Office. He explained that Jenkins had not paid the fees to the patent office as promised. It is not clear who Jenkins was, but he could have been an acquaintance of Weaver's or he might have been known to his patent attorneys Bell and Green. In large writing at the top of this page is "\$20 cash." On the last page is a note "Rec'd and filed Nov 28/63" along with some initials. Presumably when William Weaver brought the letter and \$20.00 into the patent office to pay his brother's fees, the clerk took the letter as documentation of who the payment was from and filed the document away in Samuel Weaver's patent case file.

Samuel Weaver lived in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He established a daguerreotype gallery in Gettysburg in 1852 which was the first permanent photography shop in the town. In 1860, he had turned the business over to his son Peter who later moved the gallery to nearby Hanover, while Samuel retired in Gettysburg.

Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania toured the battlefield with local attorney David Wills. Curtin named Wills as the agent in charge of the creation and maintenance of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Part of this plan was to move all of the Union dead to the new cemetery near the already established Evergreen Cemetery. Wills accepted the bid of Frederick Biesecker to dis-inter the Union bodies and move them to the newly created cemetery. Biesecker was paid \$1.59 per body and he hired a group of 10 to 12 free African Americans to do the work. Samuel Weaver was hired to oversee the crew. Weaver personally witnessed each exhumation to determine if the body was Union or Confederate.

The work began in August 1863 and initially only the Union bodies were moved. Toward the end of the letter he states he has overseen the movement of 1,285 bodies in 20 days to the cemetery and hopes to have all of them moved by early January. The work actually took until March of 1864 and 3,354 bodies were relocated to the new cemetery. After the war, he helped to dis-inter many of the Confederate bodies and assisted in getting them returned to their home states.

The second page of the letter included a firsthand account of the dedication of the cemetery which took place on November 19, 1863. President Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication and his remarks are of course now known as the Gettysburg Address. Weaver wrote, ". . . it is supposed that there were not less than from 30 to 40,000 strangers present." He also noted that "I didn't see one drunken man all day nor evening." He goes on to tell his brother about the various photographs he and his son Peter had taken of the dedication, as well as the surgeons' hospital tents in the seven weeks prior to the dedication ceremony.

Today researchers can view the photographs taken by Peter Weaver at the Library of Congress. This [article](#) includes a number of photographs attributed to Peter Weaver from the day of the Gettysburg Address.

Patent case files often contain many exciting finds including patent drawings, letters from inventors and their lawyers to the patent examiner, and replies that can become quite contentious as each party argues over the specifics of the patent. Occasionally the files will contain a photograph to help illustrate the invention. Finding a letter between two brothers that includes an eyewitness account of a major event in American History is a whole new level of treasure. More information about patent case files can be found in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

\$20 cash

Gettysburg Nov 26/63

My kind Brother,

Yours of the 22^d was rec^d on
Yesterday It found^{ed} all well & I was glad to read in yours
that you was all enjoying health, Surely one of the richest
blessings that we can obtain in this world, Please except
my thanks for your prompt attention of the bill that Jenkins
demands of me, It appears that they have not applied the
money as they promised me, that there receipt shows
for, but so it is there is one half of the people in this world
dont do any labour, but still appear to get along as well
as the man that labours hard from year to year, Now
here we can see how those live who dont labour, they live
from those who labour & toil from day to day, watching their
opportunity to rob the man who makes his livelihood
honestly, by getting goods on a credit & receive money &
never pay it over as I have reason to believe the party did
that took they money from me to pay into the U.S. Patent office
& never done it, This is once they never will do it again
for me, Enclased you will find \$20.00 Please take it to
Mr Holloway & pay it over to him as soon as he gives
you the papers that are required for the patent on my
Phot^o Car, I want Holloway to send me the drawings with
the Deed of the patent, by so doing you will oblige me,
S. Weaver

Brother I wish you could have been here on the 19th last at the dedication of the National Semetary it was one of the largest assembling that ever met in our county with the exception when the battle was fought, it is supposed that there where not less than from 30 to 40,000 Strangers present, & the order of the day was so exelent every thing was done in peace & harmony, I didnt see one drunken man all day nor evening, though I was kept very buisy all day, in the fore noon I assisted Peter of getting a Negative of the large assembly on the Semetary ground, which I think is very fine, we have not as yet printed any of the Negative Peter went off to Hanover on last Sunday Evening to attend to his car again, I suppose he has printed some ^{Phot.} of the assembly that was at the dedication of the 19th, I have had Peter at G. for 7 weeks taking Negatives of the surgeons Hospital tents at the General Hospital, he has some very fine Negatives, we have sold over 1000, ^{Phot.} up to this time, we have something like 75 different Negatives, I intend as soon as all the dead soldiers are buried in the National Semetary, to take a Picture of the whole ground & also take a Negative of the ground for each state, Brother it is going to make one of the prettest Semetary in U.S., I have been employed by the government to superintend the raising of all the dead that fell on the battle field at G. & all that died in the Hospitals to the N. Semetary, in 20 Days I sent in 1285, If the weather remains favourable I think that I can have them all sent in by the first of Jan^y. Please let me hear from you soon, Yours in love &c
S. Weaver

Upcoming Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

Beyond the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Accessing American Indian Records from the National Archives

Wednesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Daylight Time

Explore different types of American Indian documents across multiple record groups and discover different ways of incorporating these important primary sources into your classroom.

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. [Registration](#) is required.

Penpals from the Past: American Indian Schools in the United States

Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Daylight Time

Schools for Native American children and youth have existed since before the Revolutionary War. Although encouraged by the U.S. Government, schools between 1776 and 1879, were run primarily by religious institutions and, as a result, are not usually represented in National Archives holdings. In this webinar, we will learn about Indian Boarding and Day School records created primarily after 1879 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and see some examples of class schedules and student work from then until today.

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. [Registration](#) is required.

Right: Miss Robertson's School Room, 1913. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Glass Plate Negatives, 1909-1915. National Archives Identifier 251732. National Archives at Fort Worth.



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.