



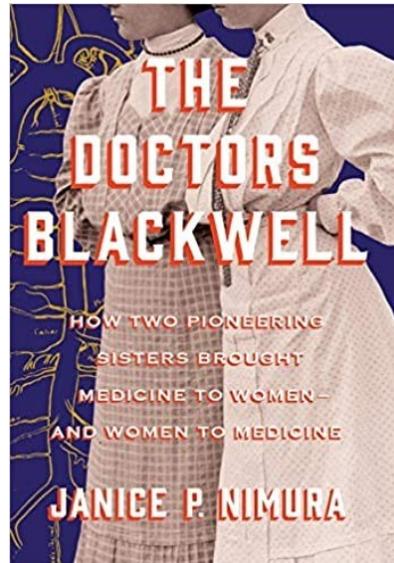
# National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

## Upcoming Virtual Programs at the National Archives

The National Archives is continuing to offer a full slate of public programs in March. An extensive list can be found [here](#). Below are several highlights on a variety of topics. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Time.

### ***The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine***

On **Friday March 5 at Noon ET**, the National Archives will host **Janice P. Nimura** for a discussion of her book, *The Doctors Blackwell*. In the mid-19th century, it was an unheard of notion for a woman to study medicine, but in 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in America to receive an M.D. She was soon joined by her younger sister, Emily, and together, the Blackwells founded the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children, the first hospital staffed entirely by women. Nimura presents the story of these pioneering sisters and how they exploded the limits of possibility for women in medicine. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



### ***The Girl Explorers: The Untold Story of the Globetrotting Women Who Trekged, Flew, and Fought Their Way Around***

On **Tuesday, March 9 at Noon ET**, the National Archives will host **Jayne Zanglein** for a discussion of her book, *The Girl Explorers*. Zanglein tells the inspirational and untold story of the founding of the Society of Women Geographers - an organization of adventurous female world explorers - and how key members served as early advocates for human rights and paved the way for today's women scientists. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).

### **Virtual Pajama Program**

On **Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m. ET** the National Archives will host a Virtual Pajama program. This fun educational program for kids 8-12 years old will focus on women in sports, the Olympics, and gymnastics. Participants will read the inspiring book *I Got This: To Gold and Beyond*, learn about related historical records in the National Archives, and create and share their own artwork and writing. Author, Olympic gold medalist, and *Dancing with the Stars* champion **Laurie Hernandez**, is the featured speaker. **Registration is required for this free program.**

You're invited to a **FREE** program for kids and their families!

## Virtual Pajama Party

March 20, 2021, at 8 pm ET

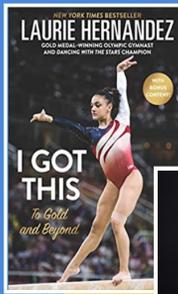
This online event for kids 8-12 will focus on women's history in sports, the Olympics, and gymnastics.

FEATURING an appearance and discussion with Olympic gold medalist and author

**Laurie Hernandez**

Participants will read "I Got This," learn about historical documents in the National Archives, and create their own artwork and writing!

Questions? Email [education@nara.gov](mailto:education@nara.gov)





## March 2021

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### Upcoming Events

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

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## Is it Supposed to Rain Today? The Federal Government & the Weather 1814-1970

Whether it is the frigid temperatures and snow that blanketed the Midwest for most of February or the humidity and thunderstorms that will start in just a short few months, the weather affects so many aspects of our lives. People have been trying to predict the weather for centuries. Accurate weather forecasts help us plan our days, give farmers an idea of when they can work in the fields, and can even save lives. The federal government has a long history of observing, researching, and forecasting the weather. The federal government first began actively observing the weather in 1814 when instructions were included in Army regulations that every Army surgeon should keep a journal of their weather observations, and later in 1817 under the direction of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, some land offices across the country also started keeping track of weather observations. In 1847, the Smithsonian Institution began collecting all existing weather observations it could find and eventually started its own network of 150 volunteers across the country who made weather observations under the Institution's guidance.

In 1870, the Army Signal Corps began conducting their own meteorological work, and eventually the Smithsonian Institution transferred all of their reports to the Signal Corps. Over the years the amount of work involved in providing meteorological services continued to grow, and by 1889 it consumed nearly all of the Signal Corps' time. Congress approved an act in 1890 which transferred those meteorological services to the newly created U.S. Weather Bureau, a civilian agency under the Department of Agriculture. Instead of trying to forecast the weather for the country from their office in Washington, D.C., the Weather Bureau assigned forecasters to cities across the country.

By the early 1900s, at least in some cities daily forecasts were printed on paper and delivered to residents by the Post Office. However, due to when the forecasts were released each day, the Post Office couldn't deliver them until the following day.

The Weather Bureau quickly expanded during the first half of the 20th century. Not only were advances in technology and science constantly changing the way the Bureau collected data and disseminated forecasts, but those advances also consistently increased the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities. In 1916, the Bureau began issuing fire weather forecasts through the newly created Fire Weather Service. Due to the increase use of airplanes by both the military and the public, the Bureau began issuing forecasts for flying: first for the military in 1918 and later for civilian aviation in 1926. The Bureau established a hurricane warning service in 1935 and began issuing tornado forecasts to the



Above: Photograph of a snow storm. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 27, Records of the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture. Weather Bureau. Central Regional Weather Bureau Office, Decimal Correspondence Files, 1950 – 1964, City Street During Snowstorm; Car Surrounded by Snow. National Archives Identifier 40571278.

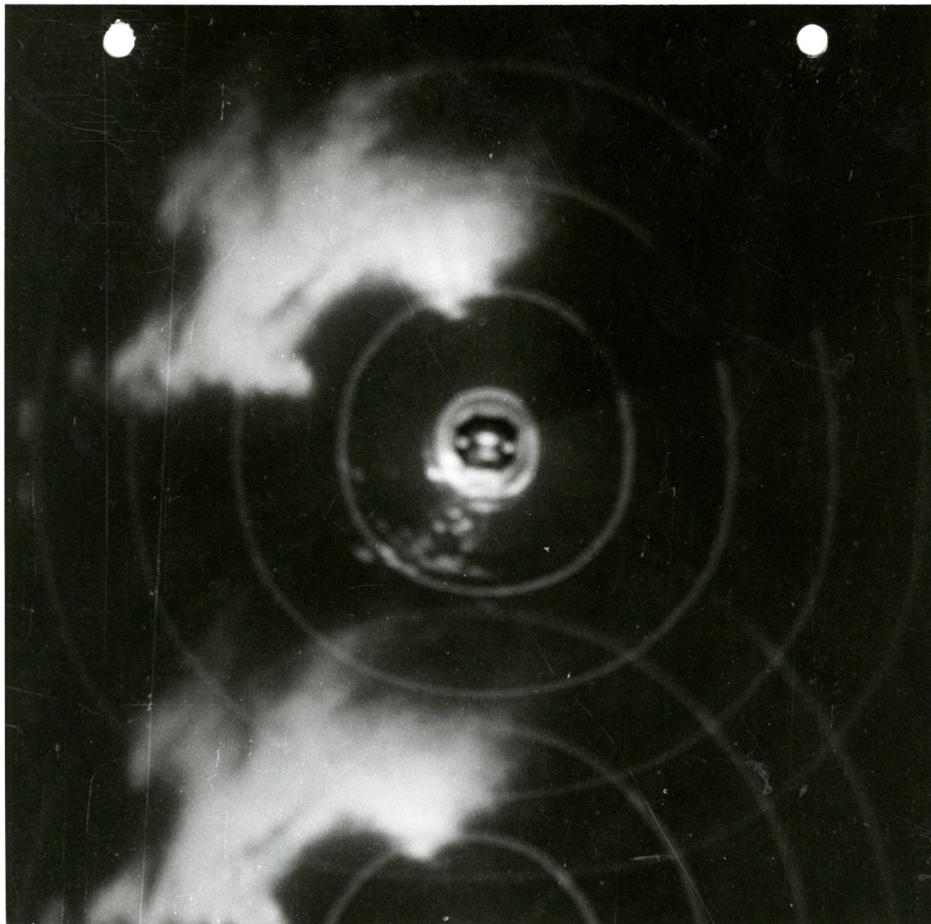
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public in 1952. During the 1960s, the Weather Bureau worked closely with NASA scientists after the first weather satellite was launched, assumed responsibility for all severe weather forecasting, and began issuing air pollution reports. In 1970, the name of the U.S. Weather Bureau was changed to its current name: the National Weather Service.

The Weather Bureau has long maintained a large presence in this corner of the Midwest. The Army Signal Corps began making weather observations in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas in the early 1870s and in Nebraska in 1885. Over 40 towns in these four states have been home to a Weather Bureau operation at one time or another since the 1870s, and there are currently twelve different National Weather Service offices operating in these states. In 1946, Kansas City, Missouri and Cincinnati, Ohio were selected as sites for the first two River Forecast Centers, and in 1961 the Weather Bureau chose to put their National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Kansas City already had a forecast center and a few other smaller Weather Bureau services, and with the addition of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, Kansas City had the largest Weather Bureau operation outside of Washington, D.C until 1997 when the National Severe Storms Forecast Center (renamed the Storm Prediction Center) was moved to Oklahoma.

Over the years, these local offices have tracked and documented many major weather events throughout the region. A great example of this is a storm that impacted western Nebraska in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1949, the Weather Bureau opened an office at the Scottsbluff Municipal Airport in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. On June 27, 1955 an F4 tornado traveled about 40 miles along the North Platte River from outside Henry, Nebraska to just outside Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The path the tornado took included passing very closely by the Scottsbluff Weather Bureau office. These three photographs show the radar tracking the tornado, the tornado on the ground, and some of the damage caused by the tornado.

More information about Record Group 27, Records of the Weather Bureau and more weather-related photographs can be found in the National Archives [Catalog](#). Additional images of the Scottsbluff tornado are on the following page.



SCT 1600M

6/27/55

RANGE MARKS 5 NM

TILT 4.9°

RADAR APS-2F (10 CM)

72" ANTENNA

Above: Photograph radar tracking a storm near Scottsbluff, NE, June 27, 1955. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 27, Records of the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture. Weather Bureau. Central Regional Weather Bureau Office, Decimal Correspondence Files, 1950 – 1964, 1600M Radar of Tornado at Scottsbluff, NE. National Archives Identifier 40570954.

(Continued from page 3)

Right: Photograph of a tornado on the ground near Scottsbluff, NE, June 27, 1955. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 27, Records of the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture. Weather Bureau. Central Regional Weather Bureau Office, Decimal Correspondence Files, 1950 – 1964, Ten Mile View of Tornado on Ground. National Archives Identifier 40570970.



Left: Aerial photograph of tornado damage near Scottsbluff, NE, 1955. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 27, Records of the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture. Weather Bureau. Central Regional Weather Bureau Office, Decimal Correspondence Files, 1950 – 1964, Tornado damage. Scottsbluff, Nebraska. National Archives Identifier 283882.

## National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of February 28, 2021)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries. Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended until further notice. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).

## March Virtual Programs for Educators and Students

Join us online for **free** interactive learning programs! The National Archives and Presidential Libraries, National Park Service, Internet2 community, and cultural and historic organizations nationwide are proud to offer the annual Presidential Primary Sources Project, a series of free, standards-aligned, 45-minute interactive videoconferencing programs aimed at students in grades 4-12. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Time. To sign up for any of the March sessions below, visit the Distance Learning [Sign Up Page](#).

March 2: **Nothing to Fear But Fear Itself: Roosevelt's First Inaugural**, Roosevelt Presidential Library

March 4: **Lincoln in his Own Words: A Close Look at the Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses**, Ford's Theatre

March 9: **7th Street Challenge: Lincoln's Commute**, President Lincoln's Cottage

March 11: **Daughter's of Freedom! Rise of the Women's Rights Movement**, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

March 16: **President Clinton's Public Diplomacy in Northern Ireland**, Clinton Presidential Library

March 18: **Life and Legacy of Ulysses S. Grant: History and Significance of General Grant National Memorial**, General Grant National Memorial

March 23: **The Peanut Brigade**, Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

March 25: **Truman's First 100 Days**, Truman Presidential Library and Museum

March 30: **Exploring President Kennedy's New Frontier Today**, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

**Young Learners Program - Meet Alice Paul on Thursday, March 18 at 11:00 a.m. ET**

**Alice Paul** is portrayed by **Taylor Williams**, an inspirational and talented actor with American Historical Theatre. Paul was a supreme strategist who worked to revitalize the woman's suffrage movement in the early 20th century with her determination, resolve, and unique plan to convince the nation that women deserved the right to vote.

A question-and-answer session with Alice Paul will follow the presentation. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



The National Archives  
Comes Alive!

Young Learners Program

**Alice Paul**

Thursday, March 18, 11 am ET  
Featuring Taylor Williams  
Actor, Lawyer, and Teacher



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



**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, and 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](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city). Tweet us @KCArchives. Follow us on Instagram at [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity).