

June 2008

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Charles Comiskey Affidavit

On January 5, 1915, the Federal League of Professional Baseball Clubs filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court, Chicago against the National and American Leagues of Professional Baseball Clubs, clubs in each league, and their respective owners. The Federal League charged the defendants with conspiring to monopolize the baseball business. They claimed that tampering, threats, false statements, and other actions had been committed to prevent the Federal League from signing players and conducting business. Due to these actions, the Federal League could not compete with the other two leagues. The American and National Leagues, in turn, countersued the Federal League for violating existing contracts and spreading misinformation. The case developed into an anti-trust action that eventually made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled in 1922 that baseball is not considered an interstate commerce activity and is not subject to the Federal anti-trust laws.

This was a landmark case as it allowed the American and National Leagues to continue to dominate baseball. Like other sports that were already dominated by one or a few established leagues, the ruling set a precedent making it hard for new leagues to compete with already established leagues.

The case involved many of the leading baseball figures of that day, including Charles Comiskey, August Herrmann, Joseph Tinker, Lee Magee, Cornelius McGillicuddy (Connie Mack), Charles Ebbets, and Charles Weegham. Many of these figures have depositions or affidavits in the case file.

Famed Federal Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis presided over the case. Known for taking a hard stance against monopolies, he went against his normal judgments and ruled in favor of the American and National Leagues. Landis later became the first Commissioner of Baseball.

Baseball legend Charles Comiskey, owner of the American League Chicago White Sox, had a long career in baseball as a player, manager, and owner, spending time in St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Paul, and Chicago. He is

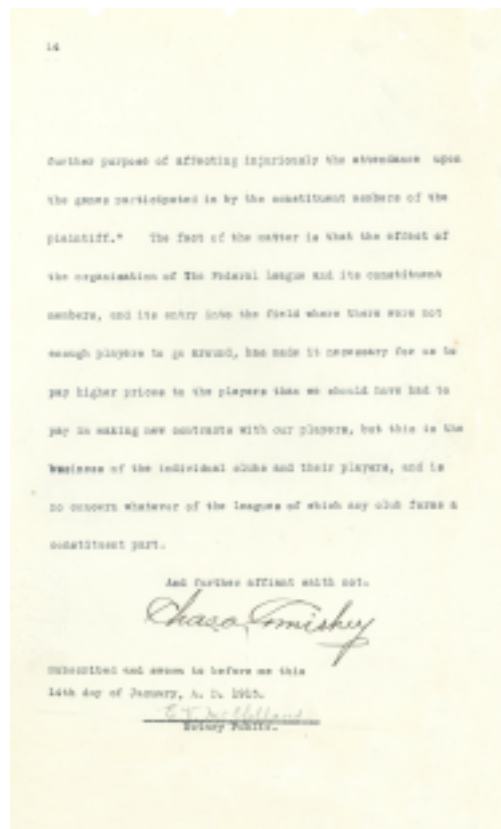
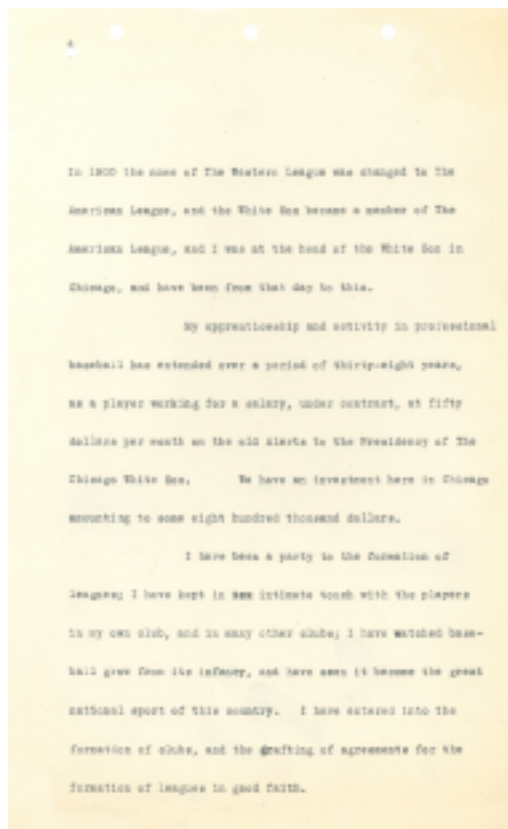
Affidavit of Charles Comiskey, page 4, 1915
Federal League v. National League, American League, et al, United States District Court, Chicago, RG 21, NARA Great Lakes Region, Chicago

Affidavit of Charles Comiskey, page 14, 1915
Federal League v. National League, American League, et al, United States District Court, Chicago, RG 21, NARA Great Lakes Region, Chicago

credited with having helped start the American League. He owned the White Sox from 1900 until his death in 1931. Comiskey oversaw the building of Comiskey Park in 1910, a structure on Chicago's South Side that the White Sox played in through 1990, when it was torn down. He was known for being notoriously stingy with money and payments to his players. This was a key factor in the 1919 World Series scandal.

The two documents displayed are taken from the affidavit Charles Comiskey filed on January 14, 1915. Comiskey talked about his career in baseball, having broken in as a player in 1876. He explained the American League was established to promote baseball as America's national game through integrity and morality. Comiskey detailed what happened with player Hal Chase to show the wrongdoings of the Federal League. Signed at the start of the 1914 season to play for the White Sox, Chase left midseason, violating his contract, to play for Buffalo of the Federal League. Comiskey denied allegations that he had spread false statements and had made threats to players who intended to play for the Federal League. He pleaded for players and owners to work together and honor contracts.

A digital copy of the 14-page Charles Comiskey affidavit is available through the Archives Research Catalogue (ARC), ARC Identifier 1692951.



NARA West Coast June 2008

Womens Softball Team, Lake Washington Shipyards, 1945
RG 181, Records of the 13th Naval District
NARA Pacific-Alaska Region, Seattle



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	<p>Denver, CO Presidential Academies Teacher Workshop Workshop and Tour K-12 Teachers 303-407-5749</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
			<p>Seattle, WA Naturalization Records Lecture/Genealogists 206-336-5115</p>	<p>Denver, CO Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists Meeting Conference Archival and Allied Professionals 303-407-5749</p> <p>Seattle, WA Brick Wall Discussion Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115</p>	<p>San Bruno, CA Military Service Records I: Revolution-Civil War Workshop/Genealogists 650-238-3488 6/13-6/18/08</p>	<p>Seattle, WA Overview of the National Archives Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115</p> <p>Seattle, WA National Archives Online Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115</p>	
15	16	17	18		20	21	
	<p>American Fork, UT Using NARA Primary Resources-TAH Workshop Workshop/K-12 Teachers 303-407-5749</p>						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	<p>Ellensburg, WA Basics of Archives Workshop Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115</p>				<p>San Bruno, CA Military Service Records II: Spanish American to Vietnam Workshop/Genealogists 650-238-3488</p>		
29	30	<p>Seattle, WA Picturing the Century in the Pacific Northwest 5/6/08-Ongoing</p>					

NARA's Pacific Region

Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641
laguna.archives@nara.gov

San Bruno 650-238-3501
sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Rocky Mountain Region

Denver 303-407-5740
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NARA's Pacific Alaska Region

Seattle 206-336-5115
seattle.archives@nara.gov

Anchorage 907-261-7800
alaska.archives@nara.gov

NARA East Coast June 2008

Philadelphia, PA

**Melting Pot Woes: Ethnic Suspicions
on the Home Front, 1917-1918**
9/24/07-8/31/08

**Sewing Flags at the New
York Navy Yard, 1940**
by Margaret Bourke-White
RG 181 NARA Northeast
Region-New York



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New York, NY From NARA's Holdings: New York Photographs 10/1/05-6/1/08	2	3 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600 Waltham, MA Records Related to Military Service 18th, 19th, and 20th Century Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	4	5 New York, NY The Right to Vote: Primary Sources at the National Archives Workshop/K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752 Waltham, MA Application of Research Methods Lecture/Educators 781-663-0121	6 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House General Public 215-606-0112	7 Morrow, GA My Family's Story: A Workshop for Young People Workshop K-12 Students 770-968-2555
8	9	10 New York, NY Finding Family: Hidden Treasures in New York Repositories Workshop General Public 866-840-1752 Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census Records Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	11 Morrow, GA Access to Archival Databases Workshop General Public 770-968-2555	12 Pittsfield, MA Flag Day Ceremonies Other/General Public 413-236-3604	13 Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Italian Ancestors, Part 1 Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	14
15 New York, NY Communism Goes to Court 6/15/2008	16	17 Pittsfield, MA Using Military Records at NARA Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	18	19 Ellis Island, NY Family History Game Show Workshop General Public 866-840-1752 Pittsfield, MA Genealogy on the Internet Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	20 Philadelphia, PA Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekend Conference General Public www.visitpa.com/freedom 6/20-6/21/08 Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Italian Ancestors, Part 2 Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	21 Morrow, GA Genealogical Society of Henry and Clayton Counties Lecture and Tour Genealogists 770-968-2555
22	23	24 Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	25 Albany, NY Navigating the Bureaucracy: Using Fed Websites Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604			28 Schenectady, NY Revolutionary War Records at NARA Lecture/General Public 413-236-3604
29	30 Waltham, MA WPA Work in New England 5/1/08-6/30/08	New York An American Capital 12/14/06-6/1/08 Baseball Goes To Court: Curt Flood v. Major League Baseball 4/1/08-6/30/08		New York, NY Camp Kilmer: Entertaining the Troops! 11/14/07-6/1/08		Waltham, MA "The Work That They Did" Works Projects Administration in New England 5/5/08-6/30/08

NARA's Northeast Region
Pittsfield 413-236-3600
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston 866-406-2379
waltham.archives@nara.gov
New York 866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Mid Atlantic
Region**
Philadelphia 215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Southeast Region
Morrow 770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest June 2008

Photograph of Girl drinking Water From a Well in Lancaster, South Carolina, 1953

"...A cool drink from farm well is refreshing to Miss Nancy Lynch of Tradeville..."

Records of the Office at Fort Worth, Texas; Post-1953 Reorganization Records
Records of the Soil Conservation Service
RG 114; NARA Southwest Region (Fort Worth, TX).



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Buckner, MO <i>The Real Deadwood</i> 5/19-6/2/08 Raytown, MO <i>Wild, Wild Archives</i> 5/19-6/2/08	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Kansas City, MO Where to Find Indian Records Lecture/General Public 816-268-8071	21
22	23	24	25 Chicago, IL African American Soldiers in World War I Lecture General Public 773-948-9001	26	27	28
29	30 Chicago, IL <i>Cinema in the Stacks</i> 9/1/07-6/30/08	Exhibit: Kansas City, MO <i>Mugged!</i> 5/24-7/20/08				

NARA's Great Lakes Region
Chicago 773-948-9001
chicago.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Central Plains Region
Kansas City 816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

NARA's National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
Archival Programs Division
St. Louis 314-801-0850

NARA's Southwest Region
Fort Worth 817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov