

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

March 2010

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Historically Rich Assets of Maritime Records at Boston: Gifts from President Lincoln

America's maritime mercantile history begins immediately after the signing of the Treaty of Paris (1783). By spring 1784, American merchants had set forth to parts distant bearing resources of the New World (and Spanish specie) in order to bring back spices, sugar, tea, and other merchandise. The maritime holdings of the National Archives at Boston reveal the beginnings of our country's mercantile growth, some of which centered at Salem, MA. And although stories of the growth of American business on the international mercantile gameboard may not tug at the heart-strings, the tariffs derived from the early international trade supported our fledging government.

Currently, the records of RG 36, Collector of Customs, District of Salem and Beverly, are the subject of a major ongoing arrangement project. In the course of this work, our archives fellow Andrew Rabkin identified documents—within the same box but not together—related to the American government's response to the wreck of a ship off the east coast of Africa in 1860. The American bark *Guide* was sailing from Zanzibar north to the Arabian Peninsula at Aden (Yemen) when it foundered on the northeast coast of Africa. The ship was plundered and a total loss. The crew and passengers were taken to the port of Aden, which was apparently within the jurisdiction of the Nukeeb of Makulla. Eager to establish positive relations, the Consul urged our President to send a thank you gift for the assistance. It's a fascinating tale that portends international relations today. Following is Consul William George Webb's description of the events, addressed to the Secretary of State:

"Sir. It becomes my duty to inform you of the disastrous wreck of the American bark *Guide* of Salem, Massachusetts, on her passage from Zanzibar to Aden near Ras Haffom on the northeast coast of Africa. This sad affair occurred on the night of the fourth September last, vessel and cargo a total loss, everything having been plundered by the natives—the captain, crew, and passengers arrived at the port of Aden from Maculla (Al Mukalla, Yemen) on the twenty-third of October, entirely destitute.

When the rumor of the loss of a vessel reached here, and before her nationality was known, I wrote a

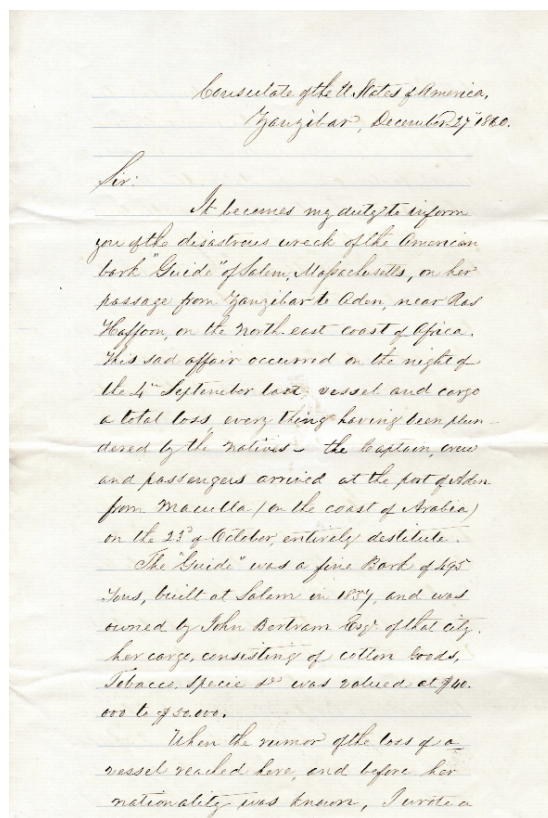
ritory on the coast of Africa. The reply he sent me was a very unsatisfactory one—he stated that he had soldiers and custom houses on the coast from Toonga (Tanga, Tanzania) to Magdusha (Mogadishu, Somalia) and further mentioning the coast beyond 'Magdusha to Mirabut, as inhabited by wandering tribes of Soumadi's, over whom he could have no control'—neither decidedly claiming or denying his right to the country.... On the spot where the *Guide* was lost, there is, so I am informed by the best authority, no town, or inhabitants, but a few poor fishermen, and that the robbers came from back in the country. . . I would respectfully urge that some notice should be

taken by the United States Government of the friendly conduct of the Nukeeb of Maculla, in protecting the crew of the *Guide* after their arrival at Maculla, and sending them to Aden. It is more desirable, on account of this friendly feeling of the Maculla people for Europeans, being a thing of recent growth. The English Political Residence at Aden sent an official letter to thank him, also a handsome present of 500 rupees value, for his kindness to these people—And I trust the U. States Government will consider it of importance enough to send a present to the Nukeeb... to strengthen the Nukeeb's friendly feelings for Europeans."

On behalf of President Lincoln, the Assistant Secretary of State Seward (fils) wrote to the Customs Collector in Salem that in recognition of "... the friendly conduct manifested by the Nukeeb of Maculla, toward the crew of the "*Guide*," after their arrival ... the President has directed that a pair of Colt's Navy Pistols, 1002 cartridges and caps with moulds, flask, and other articles, be transmitted to him, in token of the appreciation in which his proceedings have been regarded by the Government of the United States." A letter from John Bertram, owner of the ship *Glide*, to the Collector

of Customs confirms that he will transport the gift, and at no charge. And the ship's outward foreign manifest shows her cargo, not including the gift to the Nukeeb.

Above: Letter from Consul William George Webb to Secretary of State Lewis Case, December 27, 1860. Collector of Customs, District of Salem and Beverly, Record Group 36, National Archives at Boston.



NARA WestCoast March 2010

Predecessors of Waves, Yeomanettes "Happy Hour"
during World War I, California, circa 1918.
Record Group 181
Courtesy of National Archives at San Francisco



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Anchorage, AK Intro to Genealogy Research 6 P.M.-7:30 P.M. 907-261-7800		Anchorage, AK Tour of Anchorage NARA Facility Tour/Other 907-261-7800		Pasadena, CA California Council for Social Studies Conference 3/5-7/2010 Information Booth and Exhibit K-12 Teachers 650-238-3478
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Seattle, WA "Brick Wall" Genealogical Discussion Group Workshop Genealogists, 11:30 A.M. 206-336-5115 Portland, OR NCPH/ASEH National Conference Panel Presentation 8:30 A.M.-10 A.M. 206-336-5115		Denver, CO Denver History Day Competition Other K-12 Students 303-407-5749
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Anchorage, AK National History Day Statewide Competition All Day 907-261-7800		Seattle, WA Third Place Books History Cafe-Dolly Madison 7 P.M. Genealogists 206-336-5115		San Bruno, CA Census Records Research Workshop and Tour Genealogists 650-238-3488 Shoreline, WA North Puget Sound History Day Competition All Day 206-336-5115	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Auburn, WA South Puget Sound History Day Competition All Day 206-336-5115	San Bruno, CA Chinese American Student "Roots" Program Workshop and Tour K-12 Students 650-238-3478	
28	29	30	31			

The National Archives at

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

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

Denver
303-407-5740
denver.archives@nara.gov

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

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

NARA EastCoast March 2010

John V. Arrendaleamt (seated right) in clover field, 1937.
Record Group 142
Courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Boston, MA "1775 Prequel to Revolution" Teaching With Documents Workshop Educators 6 P.M.–8 P.M. 866-406-2379	5 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House Open House Genealogists 215-606-0100	6
		Waltham, MA The "Big Three" Lecture and Tour Genealogists 866-406-2379	Philadelphia, PA National History Day Philly! Junior Competition Other 215-606-0100	Philadelphia, PA National History Day Philly! Senior Competition Other 215-606-0100	Lawrenceville, NJ National History Day Contest Student Contest Rider University 866-840-1752	Morrow, GA Georgia Genealogy Society Workshop Genealogists 770-968-2100
7	8	9	10	11	12 Workshop: Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at the National Archives 3/20/10	13
Museum of the City of New York, NY National History Day Contest Student Contest New York City 866-840-1752		Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at the National Archives Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	Philadelphia, PA Finding African American Roots: From Oral History Workshop Genealogists 215-606-0100	New York, NY Finding Family: 2010 Census: It's coming and it's in your hands Workshop General Public 866-840-1752		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census Records Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	Morrow, GA Home School History Guided Group Research Visit K-12 Students 770-968-2530		Morrow, GA Southern History of Education Society Open House Academics 770-968-2555	Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at the National Archives Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Exhibit: Picturing John Brown Through 3/31/10		Pittsfield, MA Finding French Canadian Ancestors Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600		San Diego, CA National Council for History Education Conference 3/25–27/2010 K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752		Pittsfield, MA Genealogy on the Internet Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600
		Boston, MA New England Regional Conference of the Social Studies (2) presentations 866-406-2379		Agawam, MA Finding Your Polish Ancestors at the National Archives Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604		Morrow, GA Genealogical Society of Clayton and Henry Counties Guided Group Research Visit Genealogists 770-968-2555
28	29	30	31			
		Conference: Philadelphia, PA Census Awareness Program Genealogists 3/20/10		Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Irish Ancestors Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	Conference: Morrow, GA Civic Engagement Conference Undergraduate Students 3/20/10	

The National Archives at

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

Philadelphia
215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Atlanta
770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest March 2010

Women move into the wartime labor force, 1944.
Record Group 156
Courtesy of National Archives at Kansas City



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Exhibit: Blue Ridge, MO George Washington Carver 3/1-3/15/10			Prairie Village, KS Intro to NARA Lecture General Public 816-268-8000 <hr/> Anchorage, AK Tour of Anchorage NARA Facility Tour/Other 907-261-7800	Olathe, KS What's New at the National Archives Workshop General Public 816-268-8000	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO Deadly Medicine: Preview Event 3/15/10			Kansas City, MO Educator Preview of Deadly Medicine Exhibit Workshop and Tour K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Portland, OR Currents of Change: The National Archives at Kansas City Lecture Academicians 816-268-8000		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Independence, MO Naturalization and Immigration Records Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Overland Park, KS Using NARA Resources for Family History Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000				Kansas City, MO Lecture Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		
28	29	30	31	Exhibit: Kansas City, MO Mapping Missouri 2/9/10-5/15/10		Exhibit: Kansas City, MO Deadly Medicine 3/16-6/10/10

The National Archives at

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Kansas City
816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

St. Louis
314-801-0850
Archival Programs Division

Fort Worth
817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov