

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

# November 2010

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## *Aleut Evacuation and Relocation, 1942–1945*

The relocation and internment of Aleut Americans is one of the untold stories of World War II. In 1941, the United States was ill-prepared for war, and Alaska was unprepared and indefensible. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States constructed scores of military installations; about 300 total by war's end. On June 3, 1942, Japanese bombers attacked Dutch Harbor in the eastern Aleutians as part of a diversionary operation to lure American aircraft carriers away from the defense of Midway. Three days later, Japanese troops landed on Kiska and Attu Islands far to the west. The inhabitants of Attu, 45 Aleuts and a school teacher, were taken prisoner and interned in Japan during the war.

During the Japanese offensive in June 1942, the U.S. Navy evacuated all Aleuts living west of Dutch Harbor and in the Pribilof Islands. For safety, in June and July, 881 Aleuts were forcibly removed from nine villages in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands and taken to several abandoned canneries in southeast Alaska. Except in Unalaska, the entire population of each village was evacuated, including at least 30 non-Aleuts. Earlier in the year, various Federal agencies had discussed a more orderly evacuation to sites on the south shore of the Alaska Peninsula, an area more environmentally comparable to their home islands, but the Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor and then the invasion of Attu and Kiska forced emergency action. Native leaders had suggested evacuation to Kodiak Island, but government officials insisted on an evacuation nearer the mainland, farther from the war zone.

In anticipation of a possible attack, 458 Aleuts from St. George and St. Paul in the Pribilof Islands were evacuated aboard the U.S.A.T. *Delarof* on June 14–15, 1942, to Funter Bay on Admiralty Island. They had been given only 24-hours' notice to gather their important possessions, and had to abandon precious belongings and sacred religious items within churches. Not being told of their destination, the Aleuts were placed in the ship's hold where it was impossible to separate the sick from the healthy. Aleuts were also removed from seven other villages on six islands north and west of Unimak Island—Akutan, Atka, Biorka, Kashega, Makushin, Unalaska, and Umnak (Nikolski).

Living conditions for the Natives in the prison-like, temporary camps were deplorable. At Funter Bay, 300 Aleuts from St. Paul were housed at the fish cannery, where many buildings had been unoccupied for a dozen years, and used for storage. Most families slept in two dormitory-type buildings in groups of 6–13 people in an area 9–10 feet square. For a time, many Aleuts had to sleep in shifts under these cramped conditions. Other problems were inadequate water, no sanitation facilities, and little medical care. In the summers

of 1943 and 1944, the men returned to the Pribilof Islands for the annual commercial seal harvest for the government and then returned to the evacuation camps. The Aleut women remained at the Funter Bay Evacuation Camp where they petitioned for better conditions, which were so poor that disease and other causes resulted in a 10-percent death rate.

Upon their return to the islands in 1944 and 1945, the Aleuts were not permitted to resettle west of Unalaska and were forcibly relocated. The Aleuts found their villages had been devastated by weather, fire, and both Japanese and American military operations. Their homes were looted and destroyed, their personal belongings stolen, and their property vandalized or appropriated by American troops. The Aleuts who returned from prisoner-of-war camps in Japan were forbidden to return to Attu. In 1980, Congress passed legislation to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment to investigate the incarceration of Japanese Americans and Aleuts. The Commission's report and its recommendations led to a Presidential apology and monetary restitution to the survivors. Congress finally made awards to the Aleuts in 1992.

The National Archives at Anchorage maintains the records of the Aleut evacuation and relocation as part of Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Record Group 22. Additional information can be found in the Archival Research Catalog (ARC). These records are part of the Pribilof Islands Program records documenting the commercial sealing harvest from 1867 to 1983.



Right: Map of Pribilof Evacuee Camp, P.E. Harris Cannery Site, August 12, 1942. Record Group 22. Courtesy of National Archives at Anchorage.



# NARA WestCoast October 2010

"Growing pumpkins under the Interstate Canal, Dutch flats", August 30, 1907  
Record Group 115  
Courtesy of National Archives at Denver



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<b>October is officially Archives Month!</b>						<p>Richmond, CA <b>NPS World War II Home Front Festival by the Bay</b> 11 A.M. Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 650-238-3478</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Seattle, WA</b> <b>"Faces of the Pacific Northwest" Ongoing</b></p>				<p>Boise, ID <b>Idaho Council of History Education</b> All-Day Lecture K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115</p>		<p>Edmonds, WA <b>Washington State Council of Social Studies</b> All-Day Lecture K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Oakland, CA <b>Chinese American Family History Conference</b> 9 A.M. Information Booth and Exhibit Genealogists Lecture 11 A.M. 650-238-3529</p>			<p>Denver, CO <b>Workshop for Colorado Christian University</b> 10 A.M. Workshop and Tour Undergraduate Students 303-407-5749</p>	<p>Seattle, WA <b>"Brick Wall" Genealogical Discussion Group</b> 11:30 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115</p> <p>SeaTac, WA <b>Washington Library Media Association</b> All-Day Lecture K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115</p>	<p>SeaTac, WA <b>Washington Library Media Association</b> All-Day Lecture K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		<p>Willows, CA <b>Primary Sources</b> 3:30 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 650-238-3478</p>	<p>Willows, CA <b>Primary Sources</b> 3:30 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 650-238-3478</p>	<p>Fort Collins, CO <b>Presentation to Fort Collins Genealogy Society</b> 6:30 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 307-407-5749</p>	<p>Anchorage, AK <b>Federal Building Exhibit at U.S. Citizenship Ceremony and Speaker</b> Time TBA Exhibit General Public 907-261-7800</p>	<p>Denver, CO <b>Black History Heritage Fair</b> 9 A.M. Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 307-407-5749</p> <p>Seattle, WA <b>Museum of History &amp; Industry Lecture</b> All-Day K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<p>Pueblo, CO <b>Pueblo County Library Cultural Event-BIA Records</b> 6 P.M. Symposium General Public 307-407-5749</p>					

The National Archives at

Riverside  
951-956-2000  
riverside.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 East Coast November 2010

Last load of removal of home in  
horse-drawn wagon, 1940  
Record Group 142  
Courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Event:</b> <b>Marblehead, MA</b> <b>"Researching Revolutionary War Ancestors"</b> <b>11/4/10</b>	1 Pittsfield, MA <b>Beginning Your Genealogy Research at NARA</b> 2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	2 Waltham, MA <b>Records Related to Military Service</b> 2 P.M. Lecture & Tour General Public Genealogists 866-406-2379	3	4 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Your Irish Ancestors</b> 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600  Waltham, MA <b>World War II on the Home Front</b> 6 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379	5 Philadelphia, PA <b>First Friday Genealogy Open House</b> Noon Genealogists 215-606-0100  Harrisburg, PA <b>Pennsylvania Grand Review</b> 9 A.M. General Public K-12 Teachers 215-606-0103	6 Marlboro, MA <b>Massachusetts Society of Genealogists</b> 8 A.M. Information Booth Genealogists 866-406-2379  Harrisburg, PA <b>Pennsylvania Grand Review</b> 9 A.M. General Public K-12 Teachers 215-606-0103
7	8 Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Federal Census Records</b> 2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600  New York, NY <b>Getting Ready for National History Day</b> 4 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752	9 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Your French Canadian Ancestors</b> 10 A.M. Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600  New York, NY <b>Finding Family Using Military Records</b> 12:30 P.M. Workshop/Genealogists 866-840-1752	10 Pittsfield, MA <b>Researching German Ancestors</b> 2 P.M. Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600  Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Workshop: Military Records</b> Noon Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0100	11 Charlotte, NC <b>Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting</b> 9 A.M. Information Booth 770-968-2555  New York, NY <b>New York's National Treasures</b> Noon General Public 866-840-1752	12 Harrisburg, PA <b>Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference</b> 9 A.M. Lecture Archival and Allied Professionals <a href="http://www.marac.info">www.marac.info</a>	13 Charlotte, NC <b>Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting</b> 9 A.M. Information Booth 770-968-2555
14	15 Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Military Records at the National Archives</b> 2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	16 Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Society Immigration and Naturalization</b> Lecture/Genealogists <a href="mailto:dorothymclark@yahoo.com">dorothymclark@yahoo.com</a>	17 Morrow, GA <b>Naturalization Ceremony</b> 8 A.M. General Public 770-968-2555  Pittsfield, MA <b>Working With Old German Script</b> 2 P.M. Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600  Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Workshop: Naturalization Records</b> Noon Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0100	18 <b>Workshop:</b> <b>Knoxville, TN</b> <b>"Atomic Energy Commission"</b> <b>11/10/10</b>	19	20 Morrow, GA <b>Association of Professional Genealogists</b> 9 A.M. Workshop/Genealogists 770-968-2555  Athens, GA <b>Clarke Oconee Genealogical Society</b> 2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 770-968-2555
21	22 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives</b> 2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	23	24 Morrow, GA <b>Home School History</b> 10 A.M. Guided Tour K-12 Students 770-968-2530	25 <b>Conference:</b> <b>Philadelphia, PA</b> <b>"Quakers and Slavery, 1657-1865!"</b> <a href="http://www.quakersandslavery.org">http://www.quakersandslavery.org</a> <b>11/4-6/10</b>	26	27
28 <b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Boston, MA</b> <b>"Presidential Signatures at Boston"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>	29 <b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Philadelphia, PA</b> <b>"Stand Up and Be Counted!"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>	30	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>New York City, NY</b> <b>"The Ringling Bros. and Barnum Go to Court"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Boston, MA</b> <b>"Records of the National Youth Administration"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>		

The National Archives at

Pittsfield  
413-236-3600  
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston  
866-406-2379  
waltham.archives@nara.gov

New York City  
866-840-1752  
newyork.archives@nara.gov

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

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



**Photograph of Wild Turkey Introduced on  
Manistee National Forest, August 1959**  
Record Group 95  
Courtesy of National Archives at Chicago



# NARA Midwest November 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Kansas City, MO <b>The Eyes of Willie McGee</b> 6 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		Kansas City, MO <b>Elmwood Cemetery</b> 6 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Lawrence, KS <b>What Is at the National Archives?</b> 3 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000						Chicago, IL <b>They Became American: Finding Ancestral Origins</b> 9:30 A.M. Genealogists 773-948-9010  Chicago, IL <b>Crime of the '20s through Court Records</b> 1 P.M. K-12 Teachers 773-948-9010
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Kansas City, MO <b>Conversation with Amy Wilson, curator of "1968 in America"</b> 6 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Chicago, IL</b> <b>"Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872-1991"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>						
28	29	30	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Chicago, IL</b> <b>"James B. Parsons: More Than a Judge"</b> <b>Ongoing</b>			

The National Archives at

Chicago  
773-948-9001  
chicago.archives@nara.gov

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

