

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

March 2011

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Morgan Versus Hennigan

"This is a class action brought by black children attending the Boston public schools and their parents."

— Case file, Morgan v. Hennigan

Mrs. Tallulah Morgan with a group of other parents complains that the school committee in her city has deliberately denied her child access to experienced teachers and adequate school supplies and facilities; she is African American. It is 1972, and by the time the courts have finished, this effort to achieve equal rights under the Constitution has become a landmark case.

* * *

A powerful court case at the National Archives at Boston is Morgan v. Hennigan, United States District Court for Massachusetts Civil Action Case File No. 72-911-G, known as the Boston Public Schools' desegregation case. It occupies 54 cubic feet of storage, and it details all sides of the arguments, the court's opinion, evidence of the school climate and facilities, even the numbers of police (there were 1,792) present on the first day of school in 1975, and the struggle to find the best way to free Boston's schools of the effects of segregation.

Twenty years after Brown v. Board of Education (1954) and 10 years after the Civil Rights Act (1964), Boston parents on behalf of their children alleged in a class-action suit that the officials of the Boston Public Schools engaged in deliberate racial discrimination in school assignment, hiring of faculty and staff, upkeep of facilities, expenditures, and allocation of instructional materials in schools attended disproportionately by black children. They claimed "that these practices denied black children their constitutional right to equality of educational opportunity under the Fourteenth Amendment." The defendants, the Boston School Committee et al., argued—and some still claim—that if Boston's schools contained disproportionate numbers of whites or blacks, this was due to Boston's segregated ethnic neighborhoods "over which they had no control."

In 1974, Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr., found that the Boston public school system had "heavy concentrations of black pupils in some schools and heavy concentrations of white pupils in other schools." He affirmed inequality in the hiring and assignment of teachers, and he explained that the court's primary task was "to determine whether the defendants have intentionally and purposefully caused or maintained racial segregation . . . in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment." The judge ruled "that the defendants have knowingly carried out a systematic program of segregation" and "intentionally brought about and maintained a dual school system" that was "unconstitutionally segregated."

Upon appeal, the ruling was unanimously upheld, and

the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the Boston School Committee to desegregate the Boston Public Schools. This would extend to all aspects of school life, including teacher assignment, facilities, and instructional materials. The judge ordered that "busing will be used to reduce segregation," affecting up to 20,000 students.

The first day of school in 1975 brought police to the schools and violence to the streets. Teaching and learning and overall public safety were severely affected. Over the next few years, some parents removed their children to private schools; some families moved from Boston altogether. Yet today, although the memories of those days remain vivid, Boston teachers report that the schools are integrated and promote a healthy school climate.

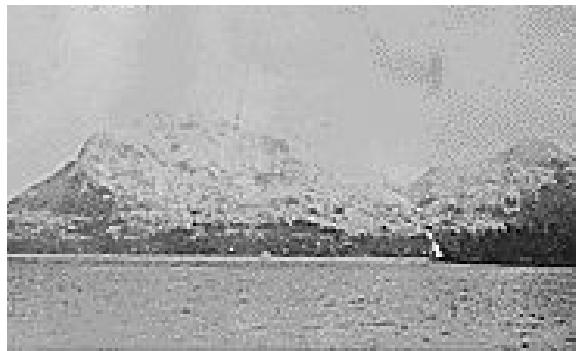
Examining Morgan v. Hennigan is interesting not only because local folks remember it well; it raises issues relevant today. Why did this happen? Could anything have been done differently? How do we face segregation and racism today and make the world a better place for everybody? These documents stimulate discussion and examination of far more than our Constitution—ourselves, our community, and our country.

Boston Police CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO OPERATION SAFETY DATE Monday September 8, 1971 BOSTON POLICE 996 M.D.C. 297 STATE POLICE 499 TOTAL 1792 SUPER INTENDENT-IN-CHIEF

school except at McKay. Under the state board plan, Boston's high schools, except for the three examination schools, are given districts for the first time, thus eliminating many discriminatory feeder patterns. Finally, busing will be used to reduce segregation; state officials predict that approximately 6,000 students will be bused for this reason, but city officials estimate that the number will be closer to 20,000. These and other aspects of the state plan will be explored at the hearing scheduled by separate notice for June 27, 1974 in the context of the court's separate partial judgment and interlocutory order, attached hereto as Appendix A. W. Arthur Garrity, Jr. United States District Judge

NARA WestCoast March 2011

Scenic view near Metlakahtla, Alaska, 1917
Records of District Courts of the United States,
Record Group 21
Courtesy of National Archives at Seattle



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Exhibit: Seattle, WA "Faces of the Pacific Northwest" Ongoing					Denver, CO Sons of Norway Tour and Presentation 9 A.M. Workshop and Tour Genealogists 303-407-5749	Seattle, WA Pacific NW Historians Guild Conference All Day General Public 206-336-5115
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				Seattle, WA "Brick Wall" Genealogical Discussion Group 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115	Lake Chelan, WA "NARA for Teachers" & "Collaborating Online" All Day Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115	Lake Chelan, WA "NARA for Teachers" & "Collaborating Online" All Day Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115 Seattle, WA Practicum for DAR Group - Using NARA Records Discussion Group Time TBA Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Lake Chelan, WA "NARA for Teachers" & "Collaborating Online" 10:30 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115					Bainbridge Island, WA Genealogy Resources at NARA and Online 9:30 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
			Brookings, SD NARA and Career Day Program 1 P.M. South Dakota State University Graduate Students 303-407-5749	Charleston, SC Evidence of Slavery & Prejudice in the Pacific North West 9:30 A.M. Time TBA Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115		

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Riverside
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Seattle
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seattle.archives@nara.gov

Anchorage
907-261-7800
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NARA EastCoast March 2011

Dennis Owen; cabin 1939
Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority,
Record Group 142
Courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Exhibit: New York City, NY "The Ringling Bros. and Barnum Go to Court" Ongoing		Waltham, MA Genealogy: What's not Online? 2 P.M. Workshop and Tour General Public 866-406-2379	Bohemia, NY Introduction to Naturalization Records 7-9 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 866-840-1752	Waltham, MA 1775: Prequel to Independence 6 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379	Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House Noon Genealogists 215-606-0100	Winchester, MA MASS History Day Judging 8 A.M. 7-12 Students 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA African American Historical Society 10 A.M. Workshop General Public 770-968-2555
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		New York, NY Finding Family: Census Strategies Noon-2 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 866-840-1752	Philadelphia, PA National History Day Philly! Junior Division Competition 8:30 A.M. Symposium K-12 Students 215-606-0103	Waltham, MA DocsTeach! 6 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Philadelphia, PA National History Day Philly! Junior Division Competition 8:30 A.M. Symposium K-12 Students 215-606-0103	Reading, MA DocsTeach! 8 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379	Philadelphia, PA Teaching American History (TAH) Workshop 8 A.M. K-12 Teachers 215-606-0103
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA "Blasting Through the Silence: The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion of 1862 and the Creation of Public Memory" Ongoing			Morrow, GA Home School History 10 A.M. Guided Group Research Visit K-12 Students 770-968-2530			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Huntington, NY Alien Registration Files 7-9 P.M. Workshop/Genealogists 866-840-1752 Augusta, ME Maine History Day Judging 8 A.M. 7-12 Students 866-406-2379			
27	28	29	30	31		
			Philadelphia, PA Getting Started With Your Genealogy Noon Workshop Genealogists 215-606-0103	Charleston, SC Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives 11 A.M. K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379		

The National
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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

NARA Midwest March 2011

Pink Ladyslipper or Moccasin Flower, June 1940
Records of the Forest Service,
Record Group 95
Courtesy of National Archives at Chicago



**Exhibit:
Smithville, MO
"Nothing for Something"
Through 3/14/11**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Documented Rights" 11/2/10-3/19/11		Kansas City, MO Stories of Kansas Curator Lecture 6:30 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		Kansas City, MO The Quest for Citizenship: African American and Native American Education in Kansas, 1880-1935 Author Lecture Kim Carrey Warren 6 P.M. Public Reading General Public 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Presidential Pets 1 P.M. Workshop IDL K-12 Students 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Introduction to Archives Management 8 A.M. Lecture K-12 Students 816-268-8000
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kansas City, MO Introduction to Archives Management 8 A.M. Lecture K-12 Students 816-268-8000	Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas" 2/15/11-5/28/11				Kansas City, MO Introduction to Online Public Access (OPA) 1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000	Chicago, IL Activities of the World War II Midwest Home Front 10 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 773-948-9010
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Exhibit: Chicago, IL "James B. Parsons: More Than a Judge" Ongoing			Kansas City, MO "Outlaw Tales of Kansas" 1 P.M. Author Event Sarah Smarsh Public Reading General Public 816-268-8000			Kansas City, MO Introduction to Archives Management 8 A.M. Lecture K-12 Students 816-268-8000
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Kansas City, MO Introduction to Archives Management 8 A.M. Lecture K-12 Students 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO DocsTeach: Cool Tools for Turning Students Into Historians 8 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Election Day - Polling Site 6 A.M. General Public 816-268-8000		Kansas City, MO The Who, What, When, and Where of the National Archives 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Exhibit: Kearney, MO "Founding Documents" Through 3/14/11	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Kansas City, MO Vampires, Werewolves, and Aliens...Oh, My! 2 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Wilbur "Bullet" Rogan and the Kansas City Monarchs 6 P.M. Author Event Phil Dixon Public Reading General Public 816-268-8000		Exhibit: Chicago, IL "Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872-1991" Ongoing		

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