



**National Archives at Philadelphia to Open New Exhibit
Documented Rights Exhibit May 17, 2012**

Philadelphia, PA – May 15, 2012

When: Thursday, May 17, 2012, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: 900 Market (entrance between 9th & 10th on Chestnut), Philadelphia, PA 19107.

The National Archives at Philadelphia invites members of the press corps to a special preview of our new exhibit, ***Documented Rights***. This travelling exhibit features materials drawn from the holdings of the 15 regional National Archives facilities.

It illustrates our national struggle for human and civil rights, and provides an opportunity for visitors to see and learn about the experiences of diverse peoples seeking liberties and entitlements in 19th-century America. Among the documents on display:

- The handwritten **Emancipation Proclamation**, written and signed by President Abraham Lincoln
- The ruling from the infamous court case, ***La Amistad***
- The groundbreaking 1898 Supreme Court decision—regarding Chinese-American **Wong Kim Ark**—which ruled that any person born in the United States to immigrant parents is, indeed, a U.S. citizen by birth

To celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the exhibit will highlight stories from local Chinese-Americans who experienced life under the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was enacted in 1880 and not repealed until 1943. Its impact is still present in the stories of Philadelphian Asian-American families today.

The exhibit will open to the public with a **reception on Thursday, May 17, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served.

Documented Rights will be on display through December 2012, and is free and open to the public. The National Archives at Philadelphia is located at 900 Market (entrance between 9th & 10th on Chestnut), Philadelphia, PA 19107.

The National Archives at Philadelphia is one of 13 regional archives, from Anchorage to Atlanta, from Boston to Seattle, that comprise the National Archives' nationwide network. Philadelphia preserves and makes available approximately 180 million permanent records of the federal courts and agencies with offices in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The National Archives is our nation's official record keeper, holding the permanent records that document the rights and entitlements of Americans and our national heritage, beginning with the Declaration of Independence.

The facility hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 4:45 P.M. and the second Saturday of each month, from 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Call 215-606-0112 for more information or see <http://www.archives.gov/midatlantic/>.