

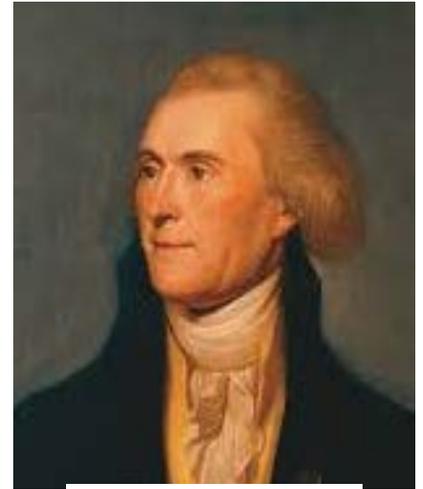
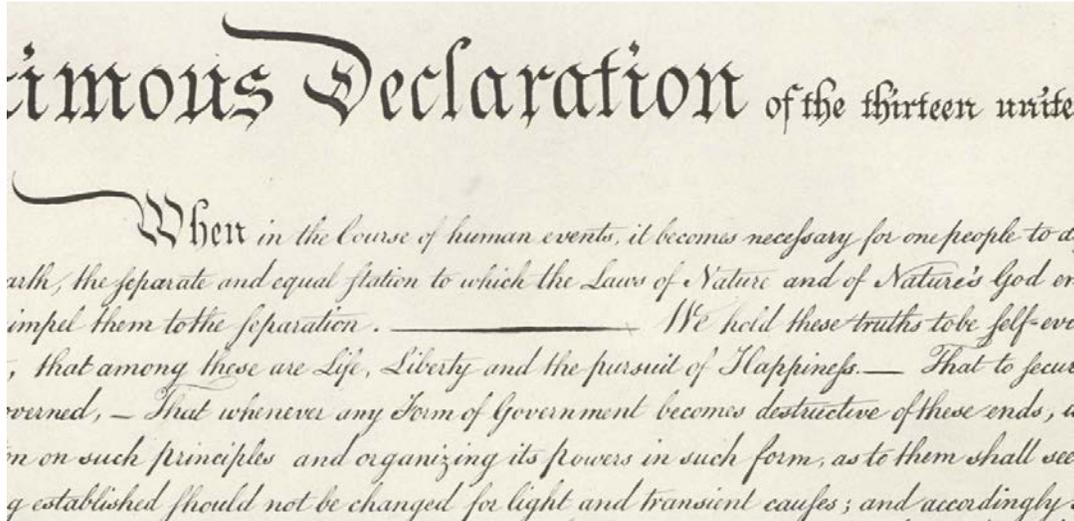


Pacific Currents

Newsletter of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa & Trust Territory of the Pacific
Facilities and staff in San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California
archives.gov/san-francisco archives.gov/records-mgmt archives.gov/riverside

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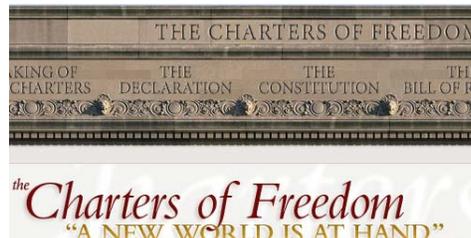


Thomas Jefferson

On July 4, 1776, our nation declared its independence

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is at once the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. Here, in exalted and unforgettable phrases, Jefferson expressed the convictions in the minds and hearts of the American people. The political philosophy of the Declaration was not new; its ideals of individual liberty had already been expressed by John Locke and the Continental philosophers. What Jefferson did was to summarize this philosophy in "self-evident truths" and set forth a list of grievances against the King in order to justify before the world the breaking of ties between the colonies and the mother country.

If you want to read more, go to *The Declaration of Independence: A History*, part of NARA's online exhibit, *The Charters of Freedom*, "*A New World is at Hand*" at http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_history.html



To view a video about how NARA experts are preserving the Declaration of Independence for future generations go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9ovu0a6pL8>

On June 23, the National Archives in Washington, DC, in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study, hosted a conference on our founding document, titled "Punctuating Happiness." Inspired by historian Danielle Allen's recent article with the same title, the conference explored the National Archives' work in preserving the original Declaration of Independence, the diversity of the document's textual tradition, how this diversity affects historical

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue

- **Records Management Training Schedule**, page 2
- **Labor Mediation Records now Online**, page 2
- **The new National Archives Catalog**, bottom page 4

Records Management Training

Fiscal Year 2016 1st Quarter training is now open for registration

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/ or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, [go to our training page by clicking here.](#)

Records Management Training, August-September 2015

Vital Business Information

August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015 – Online

Basic Records Operations

September 4, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 – Online

All Knowledge Area Classes in the West for the remainder of FY2015 will be presented in beautiful downtown San Diego, California:

1. Records Management Overview ([Knowledge Area 1](#)) August 3
2. Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information ([Knowledge Area 2](#))
August 4-5
3. Records Scheduling ([Knowledge Area 3](#)) August 6-7
4. Records Schedule Implementation ([Knowledge Area 4](#)) September 14-15
5. Asset and Risk Management ([Knowledge Area 5](#)) September 16-17
6. Records Management Program Development ([Knowledge Area 6](#)) September 18

NARA's Electronic Records Division opens records from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

Recently, staff from the NARA Electronic Records Division processed records of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), specifically speeches of the Directors and Press Releases and Bulletins.

The records are now available through the National Archives Catalog. The Speeches are available here <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/12084963>, and the Press Releases and Bulletins are accessible here

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/12079483>.

The FMCS is the government agency tasked with resolving labor disputes. Its predecessor, the US Conciliation Service, was created within the Department of Labor in 1913. With the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, the FMCS became an independent agency of the United States Government.

Of the nearly 300 speeches now available, the majority cover the

time period from 1961 through 1990. There are also speeches by Deputy Directors and Regional Commissioners.

One of the major labor events covered in the Official Publications series is the 1970 New York City Postal Strike, the first such strike in history. President Nixon declared a national emergency and sent military units into the city. In a Press Release dated May 7,

Continued on page 3

The Declaration of Independence

Continued from page 1

research, and how it is taught in schools.

In addition to Dr. Allen, conference speakers included National Archives executives Bill Mayer and Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler; historians David Armitage, Holly Brewer, Woody Holton, Eric Slauter, and Richard Wendorf; the editor of the *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, James McClure; and Seth Kaller, a collector and broker of rare documents.

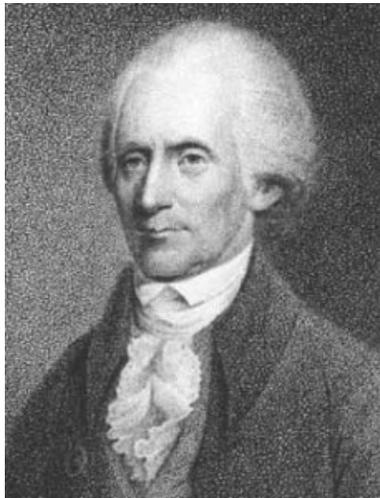
Dr. Allen's research raises questions about the transcription of the Declaration taken from the 1823 William Stone engraving. Specifically, that the Stone engraving uses a period after "pursuit of happiness," whereas the 1776 manuscripts by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Secretary for the Continental Congress Charles Thomson use semicolons or commas. She argues that the question of whether a period belongs there affects whether we read a sentence with three self-evident truths, or with five. And it affects whether we take the self-evident truths to concern primarily individual rights or rather to concern the positive value of government as a tool for securing individual rights.

To view the conference in its entirety, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6sZkGXyEuM>



John Adams, one of the drafters of the Declaration of Independence



Richard Henry Lee made the motion in Congress for independence from Great Britain



Benjamin Franklin, "The First American," one of the drafters of the Declaration of Independence

Labor Mediation Records now online

Continued from page 2

FMCS Director J. Curtis Counts announced the creation of a panel of labor negotiators to settle contract disputes between the Post Office and members of the Council of American Postal Employees.

Five years later, in 1975, the rights of unionized employees to have a union representative present during preliminary investigations was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in *NLRB v. Weingarten, Inc.* (420 US 251 / 88 LRRM 2689). These rights become known as Weingarten Rights and the FMCS would publish bulletins with the "Annual Notice of Weingarten Rights."

A long and bitter 1978 United Mine Workers strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, two organizations with a long history of labor disputes, occasioned numerous FMCS bulletins and press releases describing negotiations and government efforts to resolve the dispute.

FMCS press releases also document the work of the agency in resolving the 1981 Major League Baseball strike, in which more than 700 games were canceled. The players stopped work on June 12. On July 9, the



U.S. Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan, 1981-1985



William B. Wilson, the first Secretary of Labor, 1913-1921

Mediation Service Records Online

Continued from page 3

FMCS called both sides back to the bargaining table. Five days later, Director Moffett announced that Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan would join the talks to help find a solution acceptable to both sides. A settlement was not reached until July 31. When the season resumed in August, the All-Star Game was played in Cleveland as a prelude to the resumption of the season – but many fans were angry at baseball owners - ticket revenue and associated sales were significantly reduced.

Researchers interested in learning more about labor issues in the United States in the latter part of the 20th Century will find a great deal of useful information in these new series of records that are now available through NARA's Catalog. The bulletins and press releases also provide a good snapshot of government operations for this time period, including administrative bulletins on recruitment, job performance and staff morale, and other personnel issues. For questions and comments about the materials, individuals may email cer@nara.gov for additional information.

The foregoing is based on an article by John LeGloahec of the Electronic Records Division.



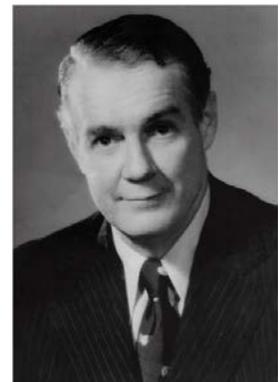
Wrigley Field, June 1981



Striking postal workers on the picket line in New York City, 1971

How to Use the New National Archives Catalog
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj2Wuo_WJKQ

Starting July 1, NARA staff demonstrates and answers questions about the new National Archives Catalog [<http://catalog.archives.gov/>]. Presentation materials are available at online.



E. B. Leisenring, Jr. led the mine owners' negotiating team during the 1978 bituminous coal strike