

March 2016

National Archives to Screen *Girl Rising*

On **Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will screen ***Girl Rising***, a film from Academy Award® nominated director Richard Robbins. A moderated question and answer discussion, led by **Letitia Harmon**, with the audience will follow the film screening. A free light reception will precede the discussion at 5:30 p.m.

Girl Rising journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers will watch the stories of nine girls living in developing countries who confront challenges and overcome impossible odds to pursue their educational dreams. Film running time is 1 hour and 40 minutes.

This program is sponsored by UNA Women, a committee of the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City and the Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute at the University of Saint Mary. Program partners include the Mu Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., SAFEHOME, and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA).



To make a reservation for this **free film program**, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us.

Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000.



By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.

Inside This Issue

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG UPDATES	2
2016 ELECTION INFORMATION	2
HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS	3-4

Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

- MARCH 1 - 6:00 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *GIRL RISING*
- MARCH 15 - ELECTION DAY: POLLING HOURS FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

National Archives Online Catalog Enhancements

The National Archives is pleased to announce the launch of the newest version of the [National Archives Catalog](#)! We have made significant improvements to the catalog that will make it easier to use, more interactive, and an even more valuable research tool. Highlights of these improvements include:

- An updated homepage with background images and photos from catalog records.
- A new citizen archivist contribution tool.
- Users can now comment on digitized records and on descriptions.
- Improved user account pages and advanced searching pages.
- Included optical character recognition (OCR) text from PDFs in the Application Program Interface (API) data.
- Improved the accuracy of file type refinement; and improved the “Available Online” tab.



Above: A screenshot of the improved National Archives catalog. The search box is located directly in the middle of the screen and the menu is in the upper right corner.

Please note that upon rollout of the new version, all the data in the catalog will need to be re-indexed from scratch. This means that descriptions and objects will appear in the catalog progressively as they are indexed. The indexing may take several days. If you cannot find something you are looking for starting on the first day of the new release, it may appear later, after it is indexed. If you have questions and comments about the new version, or about the catalog in general, please email us at catalog@nara.gov.

2016 Election Days at the National Archives



During 2016, the National Archives at Kansas City will serve as a polling location for some residents in Kansas City, Missouri. Higher than normal foot traffic will be expected and parking may be limited. In addition, the facility will have extended hours except for the research rooms. Researchers and regular visitors should note the following polling dates:

- Tuesday, March 15, 2016 - 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 5, 2016 - 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 2, 2016 - 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 - 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Above left: Original caption states - Baltic, South Dakota, typical of many rural communities all over the United States, goes to the polls during the November, 1948 presidential election. In this little Norwegian farm community, Mrs. T.H. Fresdahl, age 82, casts her vote. Mrs. Fresdahl was the first baby to be born in Fort Dakota, a pioneer outpost fort at which her father was a soldier. This was when the Dakotas were Indian country. Ft. Dakota was located approximately where Sioux Falls, S.D. now stands. Mrs. Fresdahl is proud of her pioneer heritage and proud that she has never missed voting in a presidential election since woman suffrage became effective in 1920. National Archives at College Park, Record Group 306, Records of the U.S. Information Agency, 1900-2013, Master File Photographs of U.S. and Foreign Personalities, World Events, and American Economic, Social, and Cultural Life. National Archives Identifier 7583488.

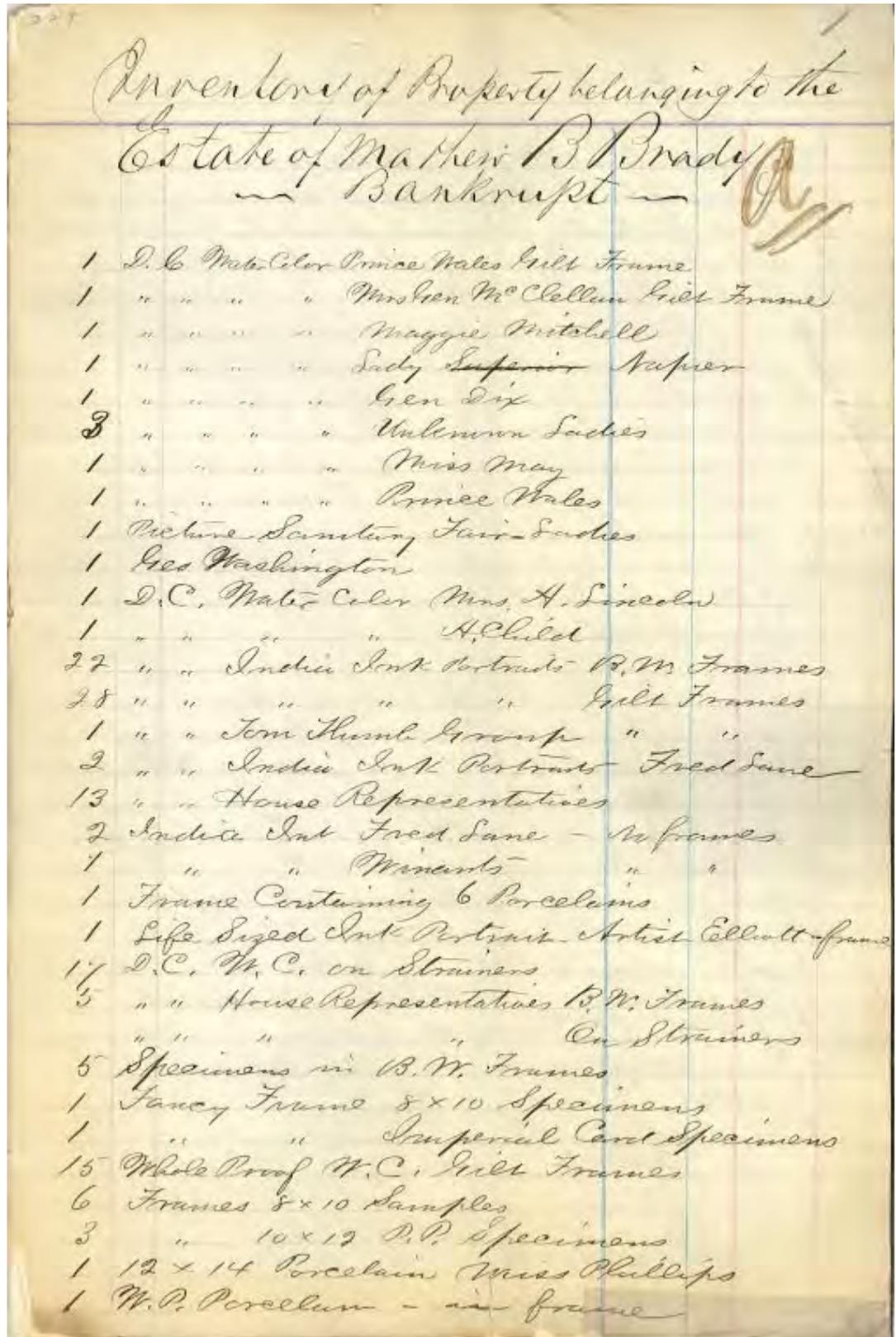
Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Show Me the Money: Bankruptcy Act of 1867

Editorial Correction: In the February 2016 issue of Hidden Treasures it was noted that bankruptcy records from Southern California and Puerto Rico were not located at the National Archives at Kansas City. In fact, records from Southern California and Puerto Rico are located in Kansas City. The records from the states of California (northern and central), Nevada (except Clark County), and Hawaii, and the territories of American Samoa, and Guam are located at the National Archives at San Francisco.

Last month, we shared the news that the National Archives at Kansas City is now home to nearly 125,000 cubic feet of archival Bankruptcy Case Files dating from 1800 through approximately 1990. The Bankruptcy Act of 1867 was passed by Congress as a measure to address the financial devastation suffered by individuals and businesses after the conclusion of the Civil War. Individuals could voluntarily petition for bankruptcy if they owed a sum over \$300.00. Petitioners for bankruptcy were required to file schedules listing all debts, creditors, residences of creditors, nature of the debts, and any security or collateral. In addition to the petition, an inventory of real and personal estate was to be included. A notice would be published in a local newspaper advertising creditors meetings and the liquidation of the estate.

In 1873, Civil War photographer Mathew Brady was forced to file for bankruptcy. Prior to the war, Brady was a noted and popular photographer in New York and Washington, D.C. At the onset of the conflict in 1861, his business model switched from portraiture to military battle documentation. Weary after four years of war,



Above: Inventory of the Property Belonging to the Estate of Mathew B. Brady, Bankrupt. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the United States District Court, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Bankruptcy Act of 1867, Case 3833, in the matter of Mathew B. Brady #3833.

(Continued on next page)

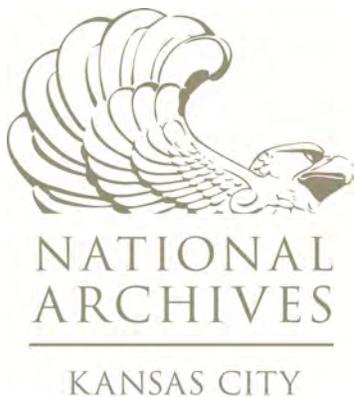
(Continued from page 3)

the public lost interest in his offerings and a plan for the sale of his self-financed collection did not yield as high a price as expected.

His file includes a multi-page list of personal and business assets attached to his home and portrait studio. Portraits of prominent nineteenth century figures listed amongst his assets include Mary Todd Lincoln, the Prince of Wales, and several members of Congress.

Bankruptcy Case Files provide documentation about social, economic, and material lives of people in all classes, from the very wealthy, like Brady, to small merchants and farmers with few belongings. Detailed descriptions of possessions subject to bankruptcy are included in addition to the estimated worth. Information on inheritance and probate can be included in the case of property passed from mothers and wives to children, thereby excluding it from the bankrupt estate. Transcripts may discuss the terms of loans and other transactions that may be difficult to clarify. This misfortune of our forebears leads us to a deeper understanding of the financial realities present throughout that last two hundred years.

Bankruptcy case files are stored off-site, so please allow two business days for retrieval. It may be necessary to confer with other National Archives locations and search dockets in their offices in order to locate case numbers. Records are available from all states, excluding northern and central California, Nevada (except Clark County), Hawaii, and territories of American Samoa, and Guam. Bankruptcy Case Files for these areas are located at the National Archives at San Francisco. Please refer to "Show Me the Money: Helpful Information for Researching Bankruptcy Case Files" from our February newsletter for more information on submitting a request. Past issues can be found at www.archives.gov/kansas-city/press/.



HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives