

4Docent Program to Begin at NARA Atlanta

A new component will be offered to school groups starting next year. Today school groups get a tour, time to look at original documents in the text room, and independent viewing of the Hands-On History and the document scans featured in our Public Vaults area. The new component will take the place of the public viewing of the exhibits and will consist of one of the primary source or archival activities described below. Joel Walker, Education Specialist, is recruiting volunteers to docent these activities. Four training days are scheduled this summer covering three programs per each training day. Sign up and be the first generation of docents at NARA Atlanta!

To sign up or if you have questions, contact joel.walker@nara.gov or call 770-968-2530

Training Dates: Monday June 9, Tuesday June 17, Wednesday June 25, and Thursday, July 31.

Docent Training Programs:

- *World War I Draft Cards: A Study in Demographic History (June 9 and July 31)*
Using reproductions of our World War I registrations, students will record data from the cards and draw conclusions about occupations, immigration, and population patterns. **Audience: Middle School, High School, College**
- *Death and Interment in the Civil War (June 9)*
Using photocopies made from the two boxes of federal death and interment records for what would become the Chattanooga National Cemetery (Records of the Office of Quartermaster General, RG 92), students will record data and draw conclusions about federal troops posted in and around Chattanooga and about causes of Civil War deaths. **Audience: High School, College**
- *Documents of the Slave Trade (June 17)*
From a combination of scanned records from the U.S. Customs Service (RG 36) and from the Federal District Court Records (RG 21), students will compare African Slave Trade Manifests prior to 1808 and Intercoastal Slave Manifest after 1808. Court records will feature a March 17, 1800 letter from the case of the U.S. v. the Planters Adventure. **Audience: High School, College**
- *African Americans in the Union Army: A Study of the USCT (June 17)*
Numerous references in the Records of the Provost Marshall General's Bureau – Kentucky (RG 110) document the United States Colored Troops. Featured in the program will be the representative scans from the Description Book of Colored Drafted Men and the Medical Records of Examinations of Recruits and Substitutes. **Audience: High School, College**
- *Presidential Signatures (June 25)*
Using scanned copies of Presidential Signatures found within our holdings, students will examine documents and place presidents within chronological order. **Audience: Fifth Grade and Middle School**

- *Families in the Way of Progress: TVA Population Removal (June 25)*

From scans made of representative family removal records from the Norris Dam project, students will draw demographic conclusions about the families forced to move to build one of the earliest dams constructed by TVA. Lewis Hine photographs will supplement the family removal records. All documents are copies from the Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TG 142).

Audience: Middle School, High School, College
- *Everyone Must Go: The TVA and Cemetery Removal (June 25)*

Within the project history for South Holston, there is a fascinating compilation of cemetery relocations that lists year of original burial, age of the deceased, and the cause of death. This data clearly shows high infant mortality and poorer health care prior to the coming of contemporary America. All documents are copies from the Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TG 142).

Audience: Middle School, High School, College
- *Civil Rights and Segregation During World War II (June 17)*

Documents from numerous record groups depict both the early stages of Civil Rights progress and the continued degradation of the Jim Crow Era. Records featured will include of the following: a letter describing discrimination on the dining car of the *Crescent Limited*, attempts at Black labor organizing, segregation in the textile industry, and the organization of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. **Audience: High School, College**
- *The Surprising Papers in the Case of the Heirs of George Rogers Clark (June 9)*

Found within a court case out of Kentucky in the 1840s involving the heirs of Revolutionary War General George Rogers Clark are found hand-copied versions of original documents found within colonial archives in London. These historic copies consist of accounts dating from 1730 through 1777 involving relationships between the British colonies and the new state of Virginia (1777) with the Cherokee. Included with these accounts are numerous maps from the same period. Students can transcribe from the original cursive, identify colonial and revolutionary war personalities, and interpret the period maps with modern maps.

Audience: Middle School, High School, College
- *Think Like An Archivist: The World of Groups, Series, Folders, and Items (July 31)*

This session would not, necessarily, deal with scans of original records but rather explain how records are organized. The educators and students have a tendency to think that records are organized by a historical topic, such as the Great Depression or a biographical topic such as Abraham Lincoln. The docent will introduce the audience to the concept of record group and then move into record series eventually explaining the use of multiple types of finding aids.

Audience: College