



The Civil History

The Regional Newsletter of

**The Friends of the National Archives and NARA
Southeast Region**

October, 2003

Volume 2, Number 4



for the NARA Southeast Region. “Staff, researchers, and members of the Federal community are excited about the prospect of all regional records center holdings being under one new and modern roof.”

Update on New Archival Facility

The construction project for the new archival facility is to be completed within 419 calendar days from the date of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The time period begins on Monday, October 6, and the current contract completion

date is November 27, 2004. Let's pray for great weather, timely delivery of building materials and equipment, and luck!

National Archives Awards Contract for new Southeast Regional Records Center Facility

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently announced the selection of Highwoods Properties of Raleigh, NC as the developer for its Southeast Regional Records Center. The new Records Center will be developed in the Southpark Industrial Park in Clayton County, GA. The facility will have a footprint of approximately 350,000 square feet and a storage capacity of nearly 1.75 million cubic feet of Federal records. It will accommodate 75 NARA staff members and contractors as well as 100 visitors and patrons.

“The Atlanta facility will provide a new home worthy of the unique holdings of NARA’s Southeast Region,” said Archivist of the United States, John W. Carlin. “The facility provides ample capacity for records storage and anticipates future needs in the ever-changing records management and electronic records environments. It will bring state-of-the-art technology to the management of records under NARA’s custodianship.”

“The new facility represents the culmination of a planning process geared toward creating a modern, cost-effective, and forward-looking records center that will ultimately address the realities of paper-and electronic-based records storage,” said James McSweeney, Regional Administrator

What’s the difference between the “Archives” and the “Records Center?”

Visitors to the Southeast Regional Office are often confused about the difference between the “archives” and the “records center.” While the two areas are both a part of the National Archives and Records Administration, the distinction between the two is significant.

- The Records Center stores the records of federal agencies until they are either eligible for destruction or transfer to the Archives for permanent retention.
- While in the Records Center, federal records remain in the custody of the agency that created them.
- When records are transferred to the Archives, legal custody transfers to the National Archives.
- Requests for access to records in the Records Center must be made to the agency that created them.
- Requests for access to original textual records in the National Archives must be made directly to an archivist who will make the records available in the research room.

FNAS News and Notes

Annual Meeting Set for January, 2004

Mark your calendars now! The annual meeting of the Friends of the National Archives will be held in January of 2004.

When: Saturday, January 10, 2004
 Time: 11:00 (Lunch will be served following the business meeting.)
 Place: National Archives and Records Administration, SE Region
 1557 St. Joseph Avenue
 East Point, GA 30344
 Program: To be announced later

When making your New Year's Resolutions, why not resolve to set aside time to get together with your Friends for fun and educational activities?

New Officers to be elected at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting in January nominations for officers will be entertained from the floor. We are fortunate in that Vice President George Jacobs and Treasurer Tia Magee have agreed to continue as officers and board members.

However, the organization needs one or two additional capable individuals to serve as board member(s) and secretary. Duties are to attend quarterly meetings, handle renewals, and assist with the newsletter. Time required is minimal. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the work of the Friends, please step forward! You may contact President Al Martin at albertmartin@earthlink.net or Vice President George Jacobs at [gjacob23@alltel.net](mailto:gjacobs23@alltel.net).

Friends Work Parties Help Sort Out Naturalization Records

Since our last edition of *The Civil History*, two additional Saturday work parties have been held, one on July 12, and the other on August 9. Volunteers in July were Linda Geiger, June Elkins, Peggie Sides, and George Jacobs, assisted by archivist Suzanne Dewberry. The August party included Annie Atkins, Oliver Moss, Ed Combs, and George Jacobs, assisted by Rich Rayburn. Our efforts were again directed toward sorting the Miami Federal District Court naturalization records.

Great progress was made toward completing this project. Suzanne, who has overall responsibility for these records, is extremely grateful for the Friends' assistance, as she continues to receive many urgent calls for copies of individual records.

It's Time for Membership Renewals!!!

To renew your membership in the FNAS, please complete the following form and mail it to the address shown below or bring it to the National Archives on your next visit. You may also bring it with you to the annual meeting in January. Beginning in 2004, memberships expire in January of each year.

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES SOUTHEAST REGION (FNAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
(Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> NEW APPLICATION <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL			
Name:		Date:	
Street Address:	City	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Home Email:	Work Phone:	Work Email:
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Dual (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100) <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Patron (\$150) \$ _____ Additional Donation			
Include in Membership Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Which day of the week do you prefer for work parties? _____			
Note: Work information will NOT be included in the membership directory.			
Please make checks payable to "FNAS" and mail to:			
Friends of the National Archives/1557 St. Joseph Avenue/East Point, GA 30344/(404) 763-7477			

Governor Proclaims Georgia Archives Week

In an October 7 ceremony at his office in the State Capitol, Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed October 5-11 as Georgia Archives Week.

The purpose of Georgia Archives Week is to celebrate the value of Georgia's historical records, publicize the many ways historical records enrich our lives, and recognize those who maintain our communities' historical records.

Various activities throughout the state focused on local and family history. On October 7th, the Southeast Region hosted a presentation entitled "The Big Picture: Photographs from the Holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration--Southeast Region." The program centered on the hundreds of thousands of photographs and negatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as well as sources of information on maritime photographs.



Governor Sonny Perdue, Secretary of State Cathy Cox (center) and Mary Evelyn Tomlin, NARA Archivist (left). NARA presented the Governor and Secretary of State with framed copies of World War I draft cards of their ancestors.

Coming in November....

African-American Genealogy

Richard Rayburn, archivist in the Southeast Region, will conduct a workshop on African-American family history on November 15, 2003, from 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.

The discussion will focus on records in the custody of the National Archives that document the African-American

family's history and struggle for freedom and equality, including records from the Freedman's Bureau. The class is designed for the beginning and intermediate family historian.

The cost is \$15 per person. Please call 404-763-7383 to register.

Love is in the air...

Leanne Townsend, Assistant Regional Administrator for the Southeast Region, was married on October 12, 2003, to Tom Cerame. The wedding was in the small town of St. Jacob, IL, where Leanne grew up. Tom is a nurse so we know she is in good hands.

Rich Rayburn, archivist, married Hilda Kurtz on July 12, 2003, in Hilda's hometown of Paris Hill, Maine. Hilda is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Georgia in Athens. Reports are that the groom wore a kilt in celebration of his Scottish ancestry, and one photograph has surfaced verifying this information.

Best wishes to both Leanne and Rich!

New Microfilm Available in the Microfilm Research Room

"Records of the field offices for the state of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872."

M1903; 90 rolls; 35mm. The microfilm is housed in overhead cabinets 33-34.

Online Subscriptions

NARA researchers may now search Ancestry and HeritageQuest on our public access computers in the Research Room. At www.ancestry.com users will find the largest collection of family history records on the web. The website for HeritageQuest, www.heritagequestonline.com, allows users to search for over 25,000 family and local histories. Both sites provide access to information from NARA resources (such as the Census) as well as thousands of state, local, and secondary sources of family history information. They are excellent adjunct resources that complement the traditional microfilm resources in the research room.

Jewels in Our Crown

Records of the Office of Price Administration, 1942 - 1946 (RG 188)

During World War II over 400,000 Americans died, and thousands more were wounded. That war defined a generation of Americans--the "Greatest Generation" as Tom Brokaw characterizes them. As any member of the "Greatest Generation" can tell you, times were difficult during the war, but the era was also economically prosperous. The war stimulated the economy and offered the chance to make up for the poverty of the Depression. Americans went back to work, ending years of high unemployment, but the country also saw an enormous shortage of consumer goods, high inflation, and overcrowded housing.

In 1942, Congress established the Office of Price Administration (OPA). The records created by the OPA are in the custody of various regional offices of the National Archives. The Southeast Region in Atlanta has custody of the records created by Region IV, which consisted of the states of Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Florida, and Virginia.

The records relate to enforcement, price controls, and rationing. Also included are general administrative records as well as correspondence from automobile dealers and garages, restaurants, service establishments, and retail grocery, clothing, and furniture stores. All total, over 1,000 boxes of OPA records are in the custody of the Southeast Region. They provide a fascinating account of life on the homefront during the war years.

The OPA enacted price controls in 1942, mandating that the prices charged in March 1942 were the ceiling prices for most commodities. Ceilings were also imposed on residential rents. Eventually, most retail food prices were frozen.

In addition to controlling prices, the OPA was also empowered to ration scarce consumer goods. Sugar, coffee, meat, fish and dairy products, as well as tires, automobiles, shoes, gasoline, and fuel oil were ultimately rationed. Gasoline was a particularly contentious issue for people in the eastern states, with one type of ration card issued for three gallons a week, another type of card for a few more gallons for those with greater needs, and a third type for those whose driving was essential to the war. After the war ended, rationing was abandoned, and price controls were gradually abolished.

The records of OPA include numerous examples of applications for special stamps, including one from a woman in South Carolina requesting a new pair of shoes for her three-year old son. A warning admonishes the applicant

"DO NOT fill in this application unless you will suffer serious hardship if you are unable to obtain an extra shoe ration before a new War Ration Stamp becomes valid." However, the mother notes that the inside of the shoes hurt the child's feet. The board denied the application with the note that "Shoes still good!"



The records from the Chatham County Price Panel in Savannah reveal in excruciating detail the work of the panel. At a meeting in April of 1945 the panel considered the charge that a retailer in Savannah overcharged a customer because he was given chocolate ice cream instead of tutti-fruite [sic]. He was charged \$.70 instead of the allotted \$.55 a quart for chocolate, an overcharge of \$.15. The panel

accepted the explanation of the retailer that it was an honest mistake and dismissed the case.

However, the None Such Waffle House in Savannah was not so fortunate. That establishment was charged with selling a cup of coffee and a hamburger for \$.40 when their official price was \$.20 for hamburgers and \$.05 for coffee. The panel felt that the None Such Waffle House should make a refund to the Treasurer of the United States in the amount of \$500.

Among those who worked for the OPA were Richard Nixon, who was briefly a junior attorney in the tire-rationing division in Washington and the distinguished economist, John Kenneth Galbraith. He was then a young economist from Princeton.

As the records attest, the work of the OPA was cumbersome, bureaucratic, and heavy on paperwork. Alfred O. Halsey, chairman of the Charleston County War Price and Rationing Board, offered these comments in his history of the work of his Board:

"...when World War III arrives...it would be far better to set up a much simpler system of rations which would not require the huge, complicated network of central Washington, regional and district offices, together with the thousands of Boards and their innumerable branches."

--Mary Evelyn Tomlin

NARA Regions Establish Partnerships with Local Educators

NARA's Regional Programs in the Mid Atlantic, Central Plains, Pacific, and Southeast regions are making important contributions supporting local education enterprises and their efforts to improve the quality of history education in their respective communities. These initiatives demonstrate NARA's commitment to partnering with educators and students to increase access to and knowledge of our holdings and services. These partnerships represent significant triumphs for NARA's regional Public Programs activities.

The Southeast and Mid Atlantic Programs have just been notified by their respective collaborating school districts that the U. S. Department of Education will be awarding **Teaching American History (TAH) Grants** for the projects that these regions joined as collaborators.

In Atlanta, a consortium comprised of the Southeast Region, the Jimmy Carter Library, the Georgia State Archives, Clayton College and State University, the Georgia Humanities Council, and the Georgia Department of Education received a TAH grant of \$984,115.

Georgia Counties of Henry, Cobb, and Fayette to Participate

Linking American History: Past to the Present is a three-year collaboration among three metro-Atlanta school systems: Henry, Cobb, and Fayette. The Henry County School District will be the lead educational partner for the grant and will serve as the fiscal agent. Additionally, the Henry County School District will support the elementary, middle, and high school teachers who participate in this program by offering them staff development unit credits, as well as other methods of support as outlined in the grant. **Arden Williams**, Archives Technician with the Southeast Regional Office, and **Sonia Robinson**, Museum Education Specialist at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, are the regional NARA representatives on the consortium.

Expected outcomes of *Linking American History: Past to the Present* include improved content knowledge, teaching strategies, research techniques, and writing and presentation skills for both teachers and students.

Year one of the program will consist of content knowledge, teaching strategies using *History Alive!* and an introduction to the state and federal Archives and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. Year two will strengthen content knowledge and teaching strategies, while expanding to

include an in-depth knowledge of historical interpretation and analysis. During the third year, teachers will conduct independent research on the Post World War II Period in America, resulting in lesson packets to be shared with other teachers through conferences, presentations and publications. Teachers will also be prepared to train other teachers on research and historical interpretation using primary and secondary documents thereby extending the Teaching American History Project beyond the three years of the program.

Building upon education research in history education and professional development, the quasi-experimental design study will use quantitative and qualitative methods. Data from pre-and post-achievement tests, observations, interviews, surveys, and lesson plans will be compared to confirm findings.

The sample population will be comprised of 72 consortium experimental teachers and 72 carefully matched consortium teachers from grades 5, 8, and 11.

A full-time Program Coordinator and Administrative Assistant will devote 100% of their time toward the implementation of the Teaching American History Project. Henry County will serve as the primary LEA and fiscal agent. All organizations will have members serving as part of the program's advisory board and as mentors to the participating teachers. An outside evaluator will be selected to investigate the effectiveness of this Teaching American History Project.

Philadelphia's Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Participates

In Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office has been supporting a prior Philadelphia School District \$1 million TAH grant, *Race, Class and Ethnicity*, for over a year. The teachers are contributing to a Regional Office exhibition, *The Constitution at Ground Level: Philadelphia 1790-1805*, which explores the development of the early national government and the impact of federal agencies, the courts, and the federal workforce on the life and character of Philadelphia. Many of their projects draw from primary materials featured in the exhibit and will be available as a learning resource via the Mid Atlantic Regional Archives new website, www.archives.gov/midatlantic.

--James McSweeney

The People's Vote

Southeast Region Participates in The People's Vote: 100 Documents That Shaped America

Which documents do you think are the most significant in American history? The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Emancipation Proclamation certainly come to mind. But how about the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803, the Homestead Act of 1862, or *Brown v. Board of Education*?

The National Archives is pleased to partner with National History Day and *U. S. News & World Report* in promoting *The People's Vote* initiative. *The People's Vote: 100 Documents That Shaped America* is a national challenge to engage Americans in a lively and thoughtful debate about which documents in American history are the most influential—which changed the course of history, shaped the United States, and defined us as a people.

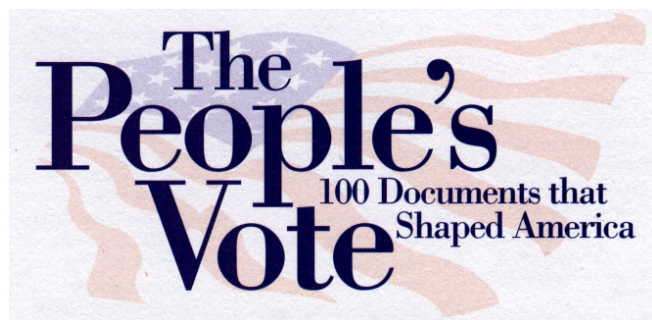
The People's Vote invites Americans of all ages and education backgrounds to vote for ten documents from the list of 100 milestone documents chosen by historians and the National Archives. Voters may also write in their favorites.

Paper ballots are available at the Southeast Regional Office in East Point or online at www.usnews.com/vote. The Archivist of the United States will announce the results of *The People's Vote* and unveil the ten documents that received the most votes in a ceremony at the National Archives on December 15, Bill of Rights Day.

If you would like to see a copy of all of the 100 documents stop by the lobby of the Southeast Regional Office and browse through them.

After all, who among us can resist seeing a copy of the cancelled check for the purchase of Alaska or the transcript of John Glenn's Official Communication with Command Center in 1962? For more information on the documents, visit www.ourdocuments.gov.

While you are in our office, don't forget to vote!!!



How many of the documents can you identify?

The 100 documents on the ballot include documents everyone is familiar with, but many are unfamiliar to most Americans. For example,

- What is Lee's Resolution? What is it about and which Lee (General Robert E. Lee?) authored it?
- Why are the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 significant?
- And, why did Jefferson send a secret message to Congress about the Lewis and Clark Expedition?
- Just exactly what did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 provide for?

The answers appear on the back page of this newsletter.

The Charters of Freedom Back on Display



On September 17, 2003, President George W. Bush and other dignitaries gathered to rededicate the Rotunda of the National Archives and Records Administration building in Washington, D.C. The ceremony celebrated the fact that The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are back on display once again and now in new, more accessible encasements.

The National Archives invites all Americans to visit the Rotunda and discover the role that records play in the history of our country and the lives of Americans.

Come and explore the National Archives Experience!

Spreading the word about the SE Region

I have been fortunate enough to represent the Southeast Region at several exciting events these past few months. Most of my activities have included speaking before local organizations. I have found that every group I have addressed has been captivated by the thought of their family history and equally as interested in hearing what our facility has to offer.

One of the most momentous events I participated in occurred in June. I traveled to Washington, D.C. with the assistant director of the Georgia Humanities Council to judge at *National History Day*. *National History Day* gives middle and high school students a chance to create and display historic presentations. The national competition is an opportunity for the winners from each state to compete for top prizes. I judged three different categories including the finalists for best documentary video performance. The presentations were exceptional, each of professional caliber. I had to keep reminding myself they were created by school children.

The weeklong program ended with an awards ceremony that featured entertainment and a guest appearance by John Carlin, Archivist of the United States. I was fortunate to exchange a few words with Mr. Carlin who mentioned his enthusiasm about our forthcoming new building!

In addition to *National History Day*, I regaled some local gatherings about the wonders of our branch of the National Archives and Records Administration. The groups I spoke to were diverse, but they all had one thing in common, an active interest in the National Archives--Southeast Region.

Some of the organizations I enlightened included: The Senoia Historical Society, West Cobb County Senior Center, and the Carrollton Sons of the American Revolution. Additionally, I discussed our resources at the Roswell Family History Center Expo, Georgia Family History department of the Atlanta-Fulton County Library and at New Echota State Historic Site.

In September I was invited to present a program on our services and resources at a "Diversity Fair" sponsored by UPS in their corporate office in Sandy Springs. Nearly 2,000 employees of UPS attended the celebration and visited displays and programs celebrating various ethnic backgrounds.

Later in October, I will participate in a group presentation to the Georgia Association of Social Studies Teachers in Augusta. We will demonstrate to Georgia social studies teachers different methods of instructing their students using resources in the National Archives.

All of these events are an excellent way to share the treasures of our facility and invite newcomers to come and visit "our home." This will have a greater impact when we move to our new location. Nonetheless, whenever I hear someone in the crowd say, "I didn't even know we had a National Archives in Atlanta," it inspires me to invite them to visit and learn more. Hopefully they will!

--Arden Williams



Carrollton chapter of the Sons of American Revolution presenting Arden with a thank-you "document" for speaking at their meeting.

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Answers to questions on page 6. How well did you do?

Lee Resolution: Acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention, Richard Henry Lee on June 7, 1776, introduced a resolution in the Second Continental Congress proposing independence for the colonies. The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and "a plan for confederation."

Alien and Sedition Acts: These laws raised the residency requirements for citizenship from 5 to 14 years, authorized the President to deport aliens, and permitted their arrest, imprisonment, and deportation during wartime. The Sedition Act made it a crime for American citizens to "print, utter, or publish . . . any false, scandalous, and malicious writing" about the Government. The controversies surrounding them provided for some of the first testings of the limits of freedom of speech and press.

Jefferson's Secret Message to Congress Regarding the Lewis & Clark Expedition: In this secret message of January 18, 1803, President Jefferson asked Congress for \$2,500 to explore the West--all the way to the Pacific Ocean. At the time, the territory did not belong to the United States. The modesty of the request, couched principally in terms of promoting commerce, belied the grandeur of the vision behind it. Jefferson had long been fascinated with the West and dreamed of a United States that would stretch across the entire continent.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: This treaty, signed on February 2, 1848, ended the war between the United States and Mexico. By its terms, Mexico ceded 55 percent of its territory, including parts of present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah to the United States.

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Address Correction Requested

