



The Civil History

The Regional Newsletter of

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

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Annual Meeting of the Friends of the National Archives--Southeast Region

A dedicated group of Friends of the National Archives--Southeast Region braved the threat of snow to attend the group's annual meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2004. We optimistically project that this annual meeting was the last to be held in NARA's East Point facility. Next year--a clean, new building and lots of space.

President Al Martin passed the gavel to incoming president George Jacobs, the current vice president. Because Tia Magbee has done an outstanding job as treasurer, she was unanimously re-elected to that position. Valerie Gordon, a long-time Friend and former FNAS president, graciously assumed the duties of secretary.



Past President Al Martin, Treasurer Tia Magee, Secretary Valerie Gordon, and Incoming President George Jacobs.

During the business meeting the Friends discussed microfilm purchases, work parties, schedules, workshops, money, and the impact of the Internet on research.

Dr. Charles Reeves, director of Archival Operations, presented a wish list of microfilm purchases, and the

Friends graciously voted to allocate \$6,000 toward the purchase of this microfilm.

Jim McSweeney, Regional Administrator of the Southeast Region, and Richard Rayburn, Archivist in charge of move operations, presented a lecture and slide program entitled "Are We There Yet?" Mr. McSweeney discussed the progress on the new archival facility, including a few of the obstacles he has encountered along the way. The group was especially interested in the architect's sketches of the inside of the new public areas.

View photos of the new archival facility as it is being constructed on our web site. Be sure to check back for periodic updates.

<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ga/atlanta.html>

Mr. Rayburn gave an overview of NARA's plans for physically moving 110,000 cubic feet of textual records; 1,000,000 photographs; thousands of rolls of plans and drawings; and 300 cubic feet of maps to the new facility. The major problem Rich faces, and the major problem Archival Operations has faced for the last ten years, has been space. Currently 41,000 cubic feet of archival records are dispersed throughout the Federal Records Center in rented space. The task of locating everything and lining the boxes up in move order has been a challenge--to say the least.

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and especially to Tia Magbee for arranging lunch and getting up early to personally cook the ham!

See you next year in Morrow!!!

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FNAS News and Notes

Fred and Susana Discover Their Roots in a Trip to the American Southwest

You know that you are a serious family historian when you combine your vacation with genealogy research. Fred and Susana Munguia did just that on their trip west in November.

Their visit to Arizona and the states of Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico, resulted in several surprise findings. Below is Fred's account of their trip. We think you will find it interesting, and it may inspire you to add genealogical sidetrips to your next vacation.

"After a couple of hours of doing research at the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) museum in Tucson, I went up to the staff counter to request another document and looked to my left. To my surprise I saw a picture of my father and two aunts when they were children! The picture was the cover of the Society's membership application. It was taken about 1891-1892, and we have a copy of it on tin but did not know who had taken it.

We found that it was taken by Henry Buehman, a well-known photographer who came to the United States from Germany in 1868. He traveled throughout Arizona taking pictures of Native Americans, settlers moving to the Arizona-New Mexico territories, and Mexican families. His family donated his photo collection to the AHS, and the Society liked the picture of my father and aunts and decided to put it on the front of their membership application—even though they did not know the names of the children in the picture.

A Wild West Story!

The AHS also had a picture of Uncle Albert Munguia, who was a deputy sheriff in Arizona. The picture was taken during a mining strike in Morenci, Arizona, in 1903 and shows him and other deputies on horseback.

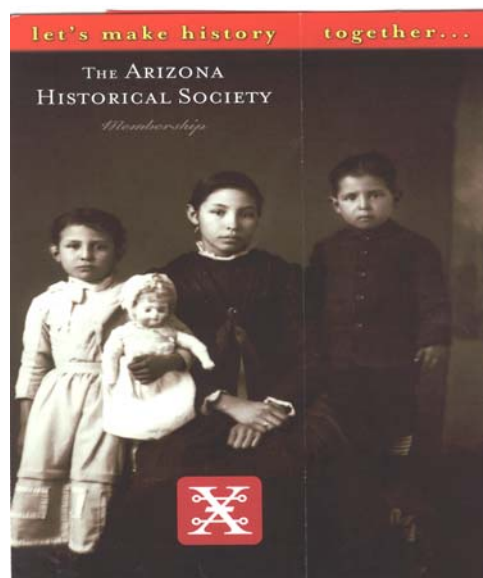
In 1912 Albert Munguia was part of a posse that was ambushed, and he and another deputy were killed. A flood washed away "The Copper Era" newspaper office near Morenci, but fortunately we were able to find a copy of the newspaper article of the ambush and funeral of Albert and the other deputy at the Arizona State Archives in Phoenix.

The AHS collection of newspaper articles on early Arizona families included one from 1924 on my cousin Dora Munguia. The article stated that she had been offered a job in Mexico City by President Plutarco Elias Calles of Mexico who was her uncle, but she turned down the offer because she did not want to leave Tucson. The

Elias and Munguias are related, and both have roots in the state of Sonora in Mexico and Arizona. More research is needed to verify that I may be related to a Mexican president!

Susana was able to find the marriage records of her grandparents who were married in 1906 in Clifton, Arizona, another mining town near Morenci, and the birth certificate of her grandmother's sister Marietta Urrea who was born in Solomonville, Arizona, in 1896, the same town where my father was born ten years earlier.

The second part of the trip included two days of sightseeing in Alamos, Sonora, where Susana's great-grandfather Thomas Urrea lived before moving to Arizona in the 1880s. Americans and Canadians have been moving to Alamos to buy and renovate the Spanish Colonial rectangular style houses with open courtyards in the middle and living areas surrounding the courtyard. The American lady who now owns the home where Susana's great-grandfather lived invited her to tour the house. The city of Alamos has been designated a National Colonial Monument by the Mexican Federal government.



Fred Munguia's father, far right, with his aunts, circa 1891.

I grew up in California, and Susana was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Genealogy research for us has been exciting since we have been able to trace our roots back to the same mining towns in Arizona, and the state of Sonora, Mexico."

NOTICE: New Saturday Schedule

Beginning after January 17th, the Southeast Region of NARA will be open for research one Saturday each quarter rather than one Saturday per month. Please make a note of the following days when the microfilm research room will be open:

Saturday, January 17, 2004

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Saturday, October 16, 2004

The hours remain 8:00 - 4:00.

New Microfilm Purchases

At its recent annual meeting, the FNAS approved the purchase of a significant collection of microfilm for NARA. The list includes microfilmed military records, Freedmen's Bureau records, and Native-American records. It also includes several rolls of FBI records related to "notorious offenders." Stay tuned for more details.

Results of the People's Vote

Many of our readers are curious about the results of The People's Vote. Americans of all ages and educational backgrounds were invited to vote for the most important documents in American history. The results are in, and the Top Five Documents are:

1. Declaration of Independence (29,681 votes)
2. Constitution of the U. S. (27,070 votes)
3. Bill of Rights (26,545 votes)
4. Louisiana Purchase Treaty (13,417 votes)
5. Emancipation Proclamation (13,086 votes)

What came in last? No. 100 on the list was the De Lôme Letter (97 votes). This letter, written by the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, Enrique Dupuy de Lôme, criticized American President William McKinley. Publication of the letter helped generate public support for a war with Spain over the issue of independence for the Spanish colony of Cuba.

Welcome...

NARA is pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Marilla Guptil for the position of Director of the Records Management Program. Her move to the Southeast Region marks a reconnection with Georgia. She taught American History at Georgia State University in the 1960s.

Marilla formerly worked for NARA in the 1970s as an archivist. In 1980 she began her career in records management at the United Nations in New York where she was responsible for a wide range of archival and records management functions.

New Microfilm Available in the Microfilm Research Room

"Records of the field offices for the State of Kentucky, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872." M1904; 133 rolls.

During the years following the Civil War, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands--the Freedmen's Bureau--provided assistance to tens of thousands of former slaves making the transition from slavery to freedom.

Records for the Kentucky offices are the latest addition to our holdings of Freedmen's Bureau microfilm. We also have microfilm for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and the District of Columbia. These microfilm publications are part of a 5-year, multiyear project made possible by the United States Congress through The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000. When completed, all field records for 15 states and the District of Columbia will be available on microfilm.

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Jewels in Our Crown

Records of the Farmers Home Administration, 1934 - 1947

A succession of New Deal agencies concerned with the plight of the small farmer has been a popular research topic recently in the Southeast Region. The Depression was a devastating period of American history for many people, but it was especially painful for the thousands of small farmers throughout the United States. They struggled to survive on meager earnings, and many were barely able to make a living. The policies of the New Deal were designed to alleviate some of these problems and create a better life for the American farmer.

Beginning in 1933, the government charged a succession of organizational units with directing rural rehabilitation and other programs for the aid of "destitute or low-income" rural families, farm tenants, sharecroppers, and migratory workers. The records from those different agencies and programs are cataloged in the National Archives as Record Group 96, Records of the Farmers Home Administration, which was the last agency to manage the programs.

Although the programs vary from agency to agency, the primary work involved making loans to needy farmers, tenants, and sharecroppers who could not obtain credit elsewhere; establishing resettlement projects for low-income families; and establishing programs to manage the land and protect the resources.

As is the case with the records of many federal agencies, if the researcher plods through the dizzying array of government forms and paperwork, he will unearth stories of real people and unbelievable details of their lives. What emerges from these records is a picture of how one segment of society lived and worked and survived in America during a crucial period of our history.

The Southeast Region has custody of records related to the program areas of regional offices in the Southeast and selected county offices, specifically in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the records involves the establishment of cooperatives and homesteads. The government purchased lands, often thousands of acres, and parceled it out to farm families. By 1937 there were 122 active resettlement projects in the United States, which provided homes for approximately 14,000 families.

Among the resettlement projects in the South were Christian-Trigg Farms in Kentucky; Penderlea Homesteads, Roanoke Farms, Pembroke Farms, and Scuppernong Farms in North Carolina, Shenandoah Homesteads in Virginia, Ashwood Plantation in South Carolina, and Prairie Farms in Alabama. The records contain much correspondence relating to the acquisition of land and the construction, occupancy, and management of the projects.

As with many New Deal agencies, the government sought to educate the beneficiaries of its programs. For farmers, this education focused not only on learning more efficient farming methods but also on health management, maintaining a clean and sanitary house, farm implement repair, etc.

To monitor the rehabilitation of farm families government supervisors visited families and filed inspection reports. These "Farm Visit Reports" note progress and deficiencies in how the family managed their farm and home. In Carroll County, Mississippi, a supervisor commented on details that would make today's homemakers wince. She noted that the homemaker "has her house, yard and toilet clean and has cleaned and has put away quilts." But, the homemaker was admonished to begin her canning soon since she needed to can 150 quarts of vegetables, 50 quarts of tomatoes and 100 jars of fruit to reach her goal! She was also told to get her "flower boxes made ready for flowers."

These records are an important source of information on how the government set up the machinery to manage these programs. They not only provide an insight into the everyday lives of farm families, but they reveal much about the philosophies that gave direction and purpose to the whole agricultural program of the New Deal.

*--Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Archivist*

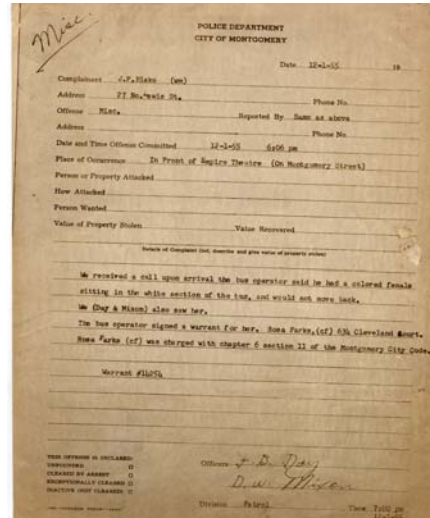
Celebrating the Accomplishments of African Americans

In February Americans will pause to reflect on the contributions of African Americans as the country celebrates Black History Month. Although we usually think Black History Month began in the 1970s, the commemoration actually dates to 1926. The historian Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and he launched “Negro History Week” to draw attention to African American history. Woodson selected the second week of February because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were both born during that time, and he believed that they made immeasurable contributions to the lives of African Americans. The renamed Association for the Study of African American Life and History expanded the week into Black History Month in the 1970s.

Perhaps the most important records available in NARA's holdings for the study of African-American family life and genealogy are records created by post-Civil War Federal agencies. Reconstruction-era Federal records document the African-American family's struggle for freedom and equality and provide insight into the Federal Government's policy toward the nearly 4 million African-Americans freed at the close of the American Civil War. The records are an extremely rich source of documentation for the African-American family historian seeking to “bridge the gap” for the transitional period from slavery to freedom.

For the historian studying the African-American experience in the 20th century, the records of the U. S. District Courts contain countless court cases related to civil rights, some of which changed the course of all of our lives. The Southeast Region's holdings include hundreds of cases related to school desegregation, voting rights, equality in housing, recreation, and community services, etc.

For more information on NARA's microfilm records on African American history, see *Black Studies: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* and *Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives*. Both publications are available in NARA's Research Room.



"...the bus operator said he had a colored female sitting in the white section of the bus, and would not move back.... The bus operator signed a warrant for her. Rosa Parks, (cf) was charged with chapter 6 section 11 of the Montgomery City Code. Montgomery Police Department, 12/1/55"--NARA, Southeast Region.

Resources on the Web

The Internet provides limitless sources of information for the study of African-American history. Two of the best sites are the National Archives Research Room and the Library of Congress' Slave Narratives. To access the NARA site, go to www.archives.gov and select "Research Room," "Research Topics," and then "African-American Research."

One of the most compelling sites on the web is “Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938.” It contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves, including James Lucas, the ex-slave of Jefferson Davis. (<http://memory.loc.gov>)

Closer to home, February is an ideal time to explore the resources of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History. The facility houses an archives and specialized resources and collections for the study and research of the African, African-America and Diasporic experience. Visit their web site at www.af.public.lib.ga.us/aarl.

Volunteers and Friends



NARA volunteers gather for a Christmas celebration.

What is the difference between a Friend and a Volunteer?

The Southeast Region has been fortunate over the years to have a dedicated group of Friends and volunteers. From time to time we are asked about the difference in the two groups. Some individuals are both Friends and volunteers, but not all volunteers are Friends, and not all Friends are volunteers. Understand? To clarify things, Dr. Charles Reeves, Director of Archival Operations, explained that:

“The minimum requirement for being a Friend is to send in the required dues to become a member of the Friends of the National Archives Southeast (FNAS). The FNAS provides support to NARA, contributes money, and provides in-kind gifts. Many of the members attend and participate in educational programs, serve on the FNAS Executive Board, participate in periodic work parties, help with public events, and, yes, serve as volunteers.

Becoming a volunteer is a little more involved. One has to apply to be a volunteer. Following September 11 and problems at other NARA facilities, NARA has become much more concerned about the physical security of the people and the records in our buildings. The process of “hiring” volunteers is becoming much more formalized, standardized, and regulated by Central Office. A standard NARA-wide volunteer application has been developed, standardized job

descriptions have been written, and references and background checks will soon be required for all new volunteers.

While we understand that our volunteers are giving us their most valuable resource (their time), and are flexible, we do ask for a minimum number of hours and some commitment to a schedule. While we consider the interests of the volunteers, they are assigned projects according to NARA’s needs and priorities.

Both our volunteers and our Friends do a great deal to support the National Archives-Southeast Region. Due to their efforts of the two groups, we have thousands of feet of records in acid-free folders and boxes and thousands of rolls of microfilm that we would not otherwise have.

Over the years many members of the Friends have chosen to become volunteers, and many Volunteers have chosen to join the Friends organization. However, the Friends and the volunteers both offer avenues to contribute time and talent to the National Archives. One can choose to be either or one can choose to be both, and we appreciate the efforts of both groups.”

A Profile of Volunteer Patty Cody

NARA is pleased and fortunate to have the multi-talented Patty Cody as a volunteer in the Southeast Region. Patty is a dedicated member of the NARA family, and she has been volunteering regularly for the last 2 1/2 years. She has spent her entire time on what everyone considers “her” records—the Records of the Charleston Navy Yard. She has refoldered, reboxed, and indexed in a database an amazing 816 boxes!



A small portion of Patty's finished work.

When asked if she tires of working on only one project, she says she doesn't. “I play games with myself,” she said. “One day I ‘look for signatures’ and another day I set a goal of a specific number of boxes and time myself to see if I can accomplish it.” One especially formidable task she has faced admirably would challenge anyone. She has figured out the military's file plan!

She also says that she is motivated to keep going because she is “fulfilling a promise I made to Gary. I told him I would.” Gary Fulton, a NARA employee who specialized in military records, was the first person to approach Patty about the project. He died in 2001.

Patty was born in Port Arthur, Texas, and spent her entire childhood and youth there. At age 18 she followed her parents northward and enrolled at SUNY in Oswego, New York. She majored in computer science (helpful with that database project) and returned south to West Georgia College to complete her degree.

She began her first career as a programmer at BellSouth, where she became friends with the “cute guy from Mississippi” who worked thirty feet down the hall from her. Their friendship blossomed, and in 1991 she became Mrs. Rob Cody. They live in the Lake Claire area of Atlanta.

She began her second career at NARA in July 2001. NARA seemed a natural for her since she has been a dedicated family historian since the fourth grade. She can trace her mother's family back to 1592 and her father back to 19th century Wales. She is also working on Rob's family history.

We treasure Patty's friendship and admire the dedication she brings to her work.

Opportunities to Volunteer at NARA

At the annual meeting of the Friends of the National Archives, Charles Reeves, director of archival operations, announced specific volunteer work projects that the Friends (or others) are asked to participate in during 2004. These projects include:

- Quarterly assistance with distributing *The Civil History*, including folding, labeling, and mailing.
- Indexing the names of individuals in Farmers Home Administration records. The papers of this New Deal agency contain a trove of valuable family information.
- Assistance with selecting, locating, and copying original Census records of famous Southerners to be used in the exhibit area of the new archival facility.
- Continued work to sort the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida naturalization records.

Saturday work parties will be held **quarterly** throughout 2004, on **Saturday, April 17; Saturday, July 17; and Saturday, October 16** from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or whatever part of the day you can work. There is no need to notify anyone to participate.

National Archives and Records Administration Workshop Schedule

Learn More About NARA's Microfilm Holdings!

February 11, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	1910 - 1930 Census
March 10, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
April 14, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	Native American Records
May 12, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	Passenger Arrival Lists
June 9, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	War and Conflict, 1790 - 1860
July 14, 2004	9:30 - 10:30 A.M.	Appalachia

All workshops will be held in the NARA Microfilm Research Room and are free. However, class size is limited, and advance reservations are required. Please call 404-763-7477 to make a reservation.

Friends of the National Archives
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Address Correction Requested



Visit us on the web at www.FriendsNAS.org