



The Civil History

The Regional Newsletter of

The Friends of the National Archives and NARA
Southeast Region

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Linking American History: Past to Present

On June 23, 2004, the Southeast Region hosted approximately sixty American history teachers from Cobb, Henry, and Fayette counties. They visited in conjunction with a three-year Teaching American History Grant, funded by the United States Department of Education.

The three school systems are all suburban systems located in metropolitan Atlanta. Combined, they total ten percent of all of Georgia's students. These counties have seen rapid growth over the past fifty years, with Henry identified by the 2000 Census of Population as the third fastest growing county in the United States. Henry County alone has experienced over a 100% increase in the last decade.

The Henry County Board of Education is the official grant recipient and lead system. The National Archives—Southeast Region is one of the partners in the project along with Clayton College and State University, the Georgia Archives, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, and the Georgia Humanities Council. Each partner was chosen based on the specific expertise of the organization and its established and respected educational outreach programs.

Linking American History: Past to Present is the theme of the program, and its goals are:

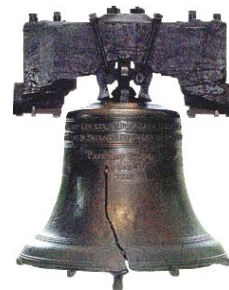
- Increased historical knowledge of the period from 1945 to the present, including how to link core historical documents, civil ideals, and principles to that period.
- Improved instructional strategies, research, writing and presentation skills, and the use of technology.
- Improved student achievement through increased knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of traditional American history.

The National Archives, Georgia Archives, and Jimmy Carter Presidential Library are providing the expertise, resources, and facilities to teach teachers how to conduct research and effectively use primary source materials to enrich the teaching of American history. All three partners offer differing perspectives and differing primary source collections. Together they offer a strong resource for teachers.

As a part of their eight-day institute, the group toured the Southeast Region, heard a presentation on the work of the National Archives and the Region's major holdings, and examined first hand historic documents from the post-1945 era.

In addition to their visits to area archival facilities, the teachers heard master historians present content information about the significant issues, episodes, and turning points in the United States from 1945 to the present in the context of the nation's historical foundations and civil ideas.

Arden Williams, Archives Technician, represents the National Archives—Southeast Region on the Advisory Board.



“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof - Lev. XXV, v. x. By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pensylvania [sic] for the State House in Philada”

Liberty Bell Inscription

News and Notes

Special Exhibits at the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum

- **The White House Collection of American Crafts** Through August 15, 2004

The first official White House crafts collection, assembled in 1993, reflects the nation's longstanding tradition of craft making and the richness and diversity of this important aspect of American artistic heritage. Call 404-865-7100 for more information.

- **After 9/11: Messages from the World and Images of Ground Zero**
September 4, 2004 – January 2, 2005

The U. S. Diplomacy Center of the U. S. State Department, in cooperation with the Museum of the City of New York, has put together an exhibition of letters, poems, paintings, drawings, quilts, photos, and other gifts that poured into New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania after the September 11, 2001 attacks. Call 404-865-7100 for more information.

***Brown v. Board of Education* Exhibit at Richard B. Russell Federal Building**

After a highly-successful run at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, the exhibit commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* decision moves to the Richard B. Russell Federal Building.

U. S. District Court Judge Horace Ward, one of the “voices of the journey” toward equality in education, will serve as the featured speaker for the Grand Opening Ceremony of the exhibit.

The exhibit includes documents from U. S. District Court cases heard in the Southeast which led to and followed the *Brown* decision. In addition, the exhibit contains historic documents and photographs of seminal events of the Civil Rights movement.

If you missed the exhibit at the Auburn Avenue Library, please join us for the grand opening ceremony on Wednesday, August 18, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

The exhibit will be on display from August 16 to October 15, 2004, and is open during the normal public operating hours of the Federal Building. Admission is free.

The Richard B. Russell Federal Building is located at 75 Spring Street, SW, Atlanta, GA. The exhibit is on display on the Plaza Level. Appropriate personal identification is required for entrance into the facility and the exhibit, and all persons entering the facility must pass through a magnetometer.

For press information contact Mary Evelyn Tomlin or James McSweeney, National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region, at 404-763-7732 or 404-763-7438, respectively.

For information about and directions to the facility, contact Alma Ford, General Services Administration, at 404-562-0052 or 404-562-0740.

More Draft Cards Online at Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com continues to update its exclusive collection of World War I Draft Registration Cards adding 2,071,271 cards for the states of Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Images and indexes are now available for the following states: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Look for more states to be added in the near future.

Ancestry.com Updates U. S. Census Collection

New versions of the 1880 and 1930 censuses have been released—correcting index, image, and linking problems found in the previous databases.

Ancestry.com is available free to NARA researchers in all archival facilities, including the Southeast Region.

NARA Southeast Region Accessions King Holiday Commission Records

Recently the Southeast Region accessioned 27 cubic feet of records from the Atlanta Office of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. They are officially part of Record Group 220, Records of Temporary Committees, Commissions, and Boards.

The Commission was established in 1984 to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the United States relating to the first observance of the Federal legal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and to provide advice and assistance to Federal, State, and local governments and to private organizations with respect to the observance of the holiday.

According to the law establishing the commission: "such holiday should serve as a time for Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent change espoused by Martin Luther King, Jr."

Among the series included in the records are:

- Commission Committee files, 1984-1996
- State and local King Holiday Commission and Committee files, 1989-1995
- Transcripts of Commission and operations committee meetings, 1985-1996
- Correspondence of Coretta Scott King, Commission Chairperson, 1985-1996
- Biographies of Commissioners, Speakers Bureau Members, and the King Family, 1990-1995
- Commission staff planning retreat files, 1990-1994
- March on Washington commemorative celebrations, 1993 and 1998
- Executive Director's issue notebooks, 1987-1996
- Commission Publications, 1984-1996
- Speeches by Coretta Scott King, Commission Chairperson, 1984-1985
- Legislation authorizing the Commission, 1984-1995
- Lloyd Davis, Commission Executive Director, correspondence (including with Mrs. King), 1985-1995
- Governance, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Charter of the Commission, 1984-1994

Goodbye, Salina!

The Archival Operations staff bid farewell to Salina Pavlovick, Archives Technician, in June. Salina accepted a position as historian with Terrenext, an environmental consulting firm in Norcross. We will miss her, but we wish her well.

Hello, Owen!

The Archival Operations staff welcomes Owen Howes Rayburn, born in June to Archivist Richard Rayburn and his wife Hilda. Both baby and Mom are doing fine. The jury is still out on Dad.

NARA Staff Participates in OAH Regional Conference

Mary Evelyn Tomlin, NARA Southeast Region archivist, and Robert Bohanan, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library Deputy Director, participated in a panel discussion at the Southern Regional Conference of the Organization of American Historians. Arden Williams, Southeast Region, moderated the discussion of "Public Spaces, Inside Places: An Open Discussion of Archives in the Area."

New Microfilm Available in the Microfilm Research Room

The Southeast Region recently received a new microfilm publication, M1856, entitled **Discharge Certificates and Miscellaneous Records Relating to the Discharge of Soldiers from the Regular Army, 1792-1815** (6 rolls). Descriptive material is on all rolls of the microfilm publication.

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Jewels in Our Crown

Records of the War Assets Administration, 1944 - 1949

On January 31, 1946, President Harry Truman signed an executive order establishing a new agency, the War Assets Administration (WAA). Placed within the Office of Emergency Management, the WAA had a big job to do: dismantle the American war effort and dispose of the government's domestic surplus war property.

Throughout the nation, the WAA examined, appraised, and released hundreds of airports, shipyards, army bases, air corps fields, industrial real estate parcels, capital goods, and consumer goods. It determined the method of disposal, sale, or donation, arranged for auctions, collected payments, and reduced the tremendous acquisitions readied for the war, to a level more in keeping with America's needs during the post-war era.

The War Assets Administration functioned for three years, before disappearing into the newly-created General Services Administration in 1949.

The Southeast Region of the National Archives has 713 cubic feet of the records created by the Atlanta Regional Office of WAA and its predecessors and successor agencies between 1941 and 1950, dealing with surplus property in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. A large majority of those records arrived in 1951 and have the distinction of being the first records to arrive in the newly-created Southeast Region. They were accessioned by what is now the Federal Records Center and transferred to the National Archives for permanent retention some years later, but their accession number is the first to be assigned by the Atlanta Office.

Records created by government bureaucrats have long had the reputation of being voluminous dull, repetitive, and often useless. Some would say that they deserve that reputation, and the records of the War Assets Administration may be a prime example. However, a quick browse through the records turned up some unexpected and fascinating information.

Bobbi-Kar to be Manufactured in Alabama!

For example, several files in the series relate to the World War II aircraft maker Bechtel-McCone which ceased operations after the war and left vacant a huge facility at the "Huntsville Arsenal"—now Redstone Arsenal. The file contains a proposal from the Dixie Motor Car

Corporation to lease buildings at the Arsenal and includes a fascinating history of the little-known automobile manufacturer. They relocated from San Diego, California, and proposed to incorporate in Alabama as the Dixie Motor Car Corporation. Their business was to manufacture and sell the Bobbi Motor Kar in the domestic and foreign markets. They had an ambitious goal. "...our production schedule calls for 61,000 the first year and after the first eight months we will be running at the rate of 100,000 per year."

The plans called for the initial production of the Bobbi-Kar Station Wagon and Bobbi-Kar Sports Convertible Roadster Coupe. The company's proposal to the government touted "market analysts" who said:

"Bobbi-Kar is the best car ever designed in America to completely fill the demands of the foreign market. It is the best second and third car for every family in America. And, it is the best car in America today for the returning G.I. or for young couples just starting out in life in a modest way."

Alas, the Dixie Motor Car Corporation went bankrupt before making a single car.



Bobbi-Kar Sports Convertible Roadster Coupe

*--Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Archivist*

Rare Slave Records Available at North Carolina Archives

By George Jacobs, President
Friends of the National Archives, Southeast

Recently a very brief article appeared in a local newspaper here in the Atlanta metropolitan area, taken from the Associated Press wire, that “N. C. archivists uncover rare listing of slaves.”

The gist of the story was that state archivists in North Carolina have uncovered an 1860 Federal census record which showed the individual names of slaves in Camden County, North Carolina, along with their age, gender and color, located with the white family they were enumerated with. It further reported that apparently the census taker—Jesse Bell—recorded the name information contrary to instructions, and thus this one county’s 1860 census is a virtually unique source of information in Federal census records.

In additional discussions with archivists there, I have learned that the actual record is **not** the Federal Census record we have on microfilm in the NARA, Southeast Region, but it is an actual paper record which Mr. Bell created to make a preliminary recording of census data prior to preparing the actual census schedules which were submitted to Washington, D.C. It is this paper record which is in the holdings of the North Carolina’s Office of Archives and History in Raleigh.

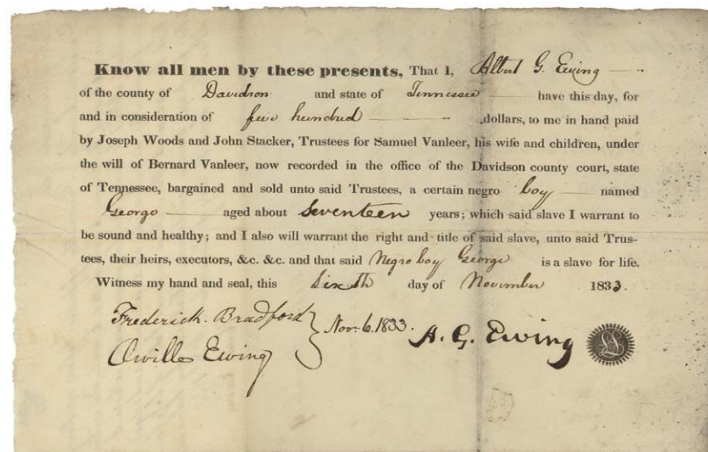
Publicity surrounding this item should remind all family history researchers of some things we all are aware of but do not always practice. For one, in the age of electronic access to census records, it always pays to follow up electronic searches by looking at the film itself, and, if we can find records beyond these, as they have in North Carolina, to review these as well.

Second, as difficult as it is to trace the histories of African-American families, nuggets of information do exist which further these searches, and the extra effort put into a search can sometimes produce wonderful results. Finally, it points out the need to coordinate research in state and Federal archival resources, as they are often complementary. At least this will be far simpler for us here in the Peach State when the Federal Archives facility is co-located with the State of Georgia’s in Morrow.

The North Carolina Archives’ holdings include paper records of the Federal census of 1805, 1860, 1870, and 1880. At least some of these are on microfilm. Those desiring more information should email the Office of Archives and History at archives@ncmail.net. I found that the archivists there are both prompt and helpful in their response to inquiries.

Editor’s Note: As George says, searching for African-American family history information is often difficult, but nuggets do surface. The following document is from the Southeast Region’s holdings of federal records from the U. S. District Court in Nashville, Tennessee. It is one of numerous documents of its kind in these records.

This Bill of Sale, dated 1833, is for a seventeen-year-old slave named George. His owner, Albert Ewing, warrants that he is sound and healthy and is a “slave for life.”



World War II Records

Was Your Father or Grandfather in World War II?

The National Archives and Records Administration recently made World War II enlistment records available online. More than nine million Army soldiers are now available online in the World War II Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File available through NARA's Access to Archival Databases (AAD).

Also included are records for 130,000 members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Although incomplete, the records contain data for a majority of the enlistments in the United States Army during World War II. In general, the records contain the serial number, name, state and county of residence, place of enlistment, date of enlistment, grade Army branch, term of enlistment, longevity, nativity (place of birth), year of birth, race, education, civilian occupation, marital status, height and weight (before 1943), and military occupations specialty (1945 and later).

This is the latest of the "born digital" data records related to World War II that the National Archives preserves in a contemporary digital format and makes available through its Access to Archival Databases online resource. NARA's National Personnel Records Center and Center for Electronic Records collaborated in this project to convert the Army Serial Number microfilm of computer punch cards to electronic form.

Other records available include Japanese-American Internee File, 1942-1946, which contains records with personal descriptive data about nearly 110,000 Japanese-Americans whom the War Relocation Authority placed in relocation centers. Another file is the World War II Prisoners of War File, ca. 1942-ca. 1947, that identifies 143,000 U. S. military officers and soldiers and American and Allied civilians who were prisoners of war and internees. Finally, the Records of Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, 1942-1945, contain limited data about the military intelligence personnel attached to Naval Group China during World War II.

How to Search



The system is easy to master after a little practice, but if you have questions, the main AAD page contains links for

frequently asked questions, information on understanding a data file's context, and how to get started.

Researchers familiar with searching the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) will find it easy to master AAD because the search techniques and description formats are very similar.

The first step is to logon to www.archives.gov/aad and follow these simple steps:

1. Click **Search**
2. Select **All Series**
3. Select **World War II Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 6/1/2002 – 9/30/2002**
4. Select **Army Serial Number Electronic File Merged Processed File Enlistment Card Records**. This database contains two tables. The main table is the Army Serial Number Enlistment Card Records table. You may also select the Army Serial Number Reserve Corps Statistical Card Records table which contains records for approximately 300,000 reservists in the Enlisted Reserve Corps.
5. Select **Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 1938 – 1946**
6. Enter the name of the individual. To narrow the search, if the name is a common one, enter data for other fields. You may use wildcard characters when entering search terms for some fields.
7. Click **Search**
8. To view the individual record with the meanings of all coded values displayed, check the **Select Record** box to the left of the row.
9. Click **Show Selected Records**

You may also call 404-763-7732 for help in navigating through the system.

--Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Archivist

Security Continues to be a Major Issue at NARA

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. To improve security at its Washington, D.C. and regional facilities, NARA has taken several measures, including the placement of a guard at the East Point facility.

The officer assigned to duty at the front entrance to the facility checks each employee's NARA identification badge upon their entry into the building. He randomly searches bags, purses, briefcases, etc. of persons entering and leaving the facility. Those having items that are forbidden (guns, knives with locking blades or blades over 2.5 inches in length, pepper spray, mace, or other items that could pose a threat to safety and the welfare of the facility' personnel and property are not allowed entry.



Officer Roy Bridges at his desk. Cameras enable him to monitor activity throughout the building and parking lot. He is charged with preserving the peace, protecting the lives of our facility's employees, customers, and all others who enter the facility as well as safeguarding the property and equipment at NARA.

All visitors to the research facility must place personal belongings in a locker. No purses, binders, satchels, backpacks, briefcases or other types of containers are allowed in the research room. Coats and other apparel must either be worn or placed in a locker. The officer randomly checks public lockers and ensures that packages or other items are not left in the lockers.

To be admitted to the research facility all visitors must present a picture identification card to the officer. For those who wish to use original textual documents, the following rules apply:

- You must apply in person and show identification containing your picture or physical description, such as a driver's license or school identification card.

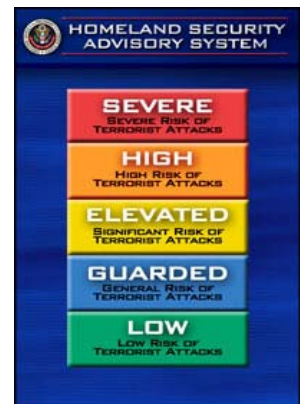
- A researcher's card will be issued which is valid for one year and may be renewed.
- If you bring personal computers, scanners, tape records, cameras, and other equipment into the facility, we reserve the right to inspect the equipment.
- You may take a hand-held wallet and coin purse for the carrying of currency, coins, credit cards, keys, etc. in the research room. Everything else must be placed in a locker.
- If you are using only microfilm copies of records in the National Archives and the microfilm research room is separate from the textual research room, you do not need an identification card, but you must register.
- Public access computers are available for Internet use in all NARA research rooms. You should not expect privacy while using these workstations. Activity may be monitored to protect the system from unauthorized use. You may not use these workstations to gain access to entertainment or other inappropriate web sites in our research room. You also may not use these workstations to conduct private business not related to your research or NARA holdings.

Security Advisory System

When you enter the facility, you will notice a sign indicating the level of security currently issued by the Department of Homeland Security.

Since 9/11, the level of threat has consistently been "Yellow" which indicates an elevated condition. It is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks.

The National Archives is committed to remaining vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks and to safeguard the welfare of our staff and visitors. Appropriate actions are followed in compliance with federal guidelines.



Order Online!

NARA is pleased to announce a new online ordering system. Researchers may now request reproductions of Federal documents, obtain initial reference services (useful for beginning genealogists), and pay for your order with a major credit card. All orders placed online are handled by the Washington Office of the National Archives.

Currently the following records are available from the Order Online! service:

Census Page: Copies of individual pages of Federal population census schedules, 1790-1930, used for genealogical research or as evidence of age and place of birth for employment, social security benefits, insurance, passports, and other purposes.

Federal Military Pension Applications – Complete File: Reproduction of the full pension application file, based on Federal (not State or Confederate) military service from the American Revolution up to before World War I.

Federal Military Pension Applications – Pension Documents Packet: Reproduction of eight documents that contain genealogical information about the pension applicant, to the extent they are in the file, from the American Revolution up to before World War I.

Land Entry File: Reproductions of land entry files or surrendered military bounty-land warrants files (Acts of 1788, 1812, 1847, 1850, and 1855)

Military Bounty-Land Warrant Application File: Files are based on Federal (not State) military service before 1856. Documents included are similar to those in a pension application file. In addition, these files usually give the veteran's age and place of residence at the time the application was submitted.

See our website at www.archives.gov for more details.

Friends of the National Archives

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Address Correction Requested

