



The Civil History

The Regional Newsletter of

The Friends of the National Archives and NARA
Southeast Region

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Electronic Records: The Future is Now

Individuals engaged in research at NARA's Southeast facility can currently access censuses, military service and pension files, court dockets, and a wide variety of other archival records created by the Federal government in their native format—paper-based text, maps, photographs and architectural drawings—or as microfilm. For those sited some distance from East Point, scanned images of selected images are available via the Internet.

How will NARA researchers access records in the future?

The Government's adoption of 21st Century business mores and its operation within a digital environment have major implications for NARA's users. Will soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq today be able to access their digital military records and veterans benefits tomorrow? Will citizens be able to examine digital Social Security records for entitlement verification purposes or access electronic Government records for information on Federal activities and services?

“America Runs on Digital Information”

The task of managing and preserving Federal electronic records belongs to NARA—the nation's recordkeeper. Chief Information Officer L. Reynolds Cahoon has acknowledged that tools or systems essential to the preservation of “born digital” records are not yet in place:

“Each of us should recognize that much of the information of the late 20th Century and 21st Century will be lost if we don't do something about solving the problems of saving electronic information over time.”

Acknowledging that “America runs on digital information,” Cahoon asserts that “ensuring its accessibility and usability now and over time is the challenge of our generation, and we must meet it.”

What are the special challenges that electronic records present to NARA? The Government currently creates billions of electronic records in over 16,000 formats ranging from simple e-mail and word-processing documents to complex geospatial data. The

inability to examine these records without hardware and software, in combination with the rapidly changing technological environment in which they are created and stored, makes electronic information more susceptible to loss. Information stored on today's zip drives and DVDs, for example, will be as inaccessible as that stored on obsolete 5 1/4” floppy disks unless a means of saving it over time is identified, and the Government is already losing digital data on a daily basis.

Over the past six years, NARA has actively pursued a strategic response to the electronic records challenge and attendant problems of volume, diversity, complexity, and technological obsolescence. In 1998 Archivist of the United States John Carlin kicked off the Electronic Records Archives institute—or ERA—the goal of which is to preserve Federal electronic records independent of specific hardware and software and to make them available at any time, any place, and to anyone who has an interest in or legal right to access them. After years of study and collaboration with numerous Federal agencies, universities, and archives and research facilities, NARA developed its ERA system requirements.

The Archives of the Future

NARA reached a significant milestone on August 3, 2004, when the Archivist proudly announced the award of ERA design contracts valued at \$20.1 million to two leading technology companies, Lockheed Martin and the Harris Company. Each company will have a year to submit design and development specifications for a revolutionary system capable of capturing electronic information regardless of format, saving it permanently, and making it accessible on whatever hardware or software is in use in the future. At the end of that time, NARA will select the best design and best team to proceed on ERA's actual development. Once incremental build-out and testing of the system is complete, NARA expects to roll out the “Archives of the Future” in Fiscal Year 2007.

ERA will have a significant and beneficial impact on NARA's users as the focus of the nation's institutional memory moves from multiple buildings scattered across the United States to the desktop of anyone choosing to explore our country's records.

--Marilla Guptil
Director, Records Management
NARA, SE Region

FNAS Annual Meeting



From the

President's Pen . . .

Reserve Your Calendar for Saturday, January 22, 2005

Yes, 2005 draws nigh, and I expect this coming year will be one of great changes in the Friends of the National Archives—Southeast Region.

As has been our recent custom, we have scheduled our annual meeting early in the new year. Specifically, to kick next year off, we will have our annual business meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2005.

FNAS Members First to See New Archives!

This will be no ordinary meeting, as it will be held at the new archival facility in Morrow! While the facility will not be fully operational by then, Friends will be given a “first ever” tour of the archives and will be informed of the final move-in plans, the new hours for the facility, and its state-of-the-art amenities. Friends will also be invited to—and help assist in!—the formal dedication ceremonies to be held later in 2005.

More importantly, we will use this occasion to seek new directions and strategies for our partnership with the National Archives.

Opportunities abound here, including using our expertise and contacts to promote greater use of the Archives and its unique holdings; to support, with publicity and logistics, outreach programs conducted by the Archives; and to better realign the volunteer activities of the Friends and others to further the mission of the Archives.

You should expect to hear more about these prospects as we move toward the meeting date, and your attendance is vital.

And, of course, we will conduct other, more typical business, and, as usual, lunch will be provided to all attendees. So I do hope you will mark your 2005 calendars for this vital meeting.

Note that we will be sending you further specifics on the meeting agenda and times, as well as directions to the new location, in the weeks ahead.

I will be very happy to have any comments you wish to make about our realignment plans. Drop me a note at the archives or email me at giacobs23@alltel.net.

See you in Morrow in '05!!!

*--George Jacobs, President
Friends of the National Archives
Southeast Region*

Hours and Address

Until April 1, 2005: **1557 St. Joseph Avenue
East Point, GA 30344
404-763-7477**

**7:00 – 4:00
Monday – Friday**

After April 1, 2005: **5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260**

Hours to be Announced

Closed Federal Holidays

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First Box Placed on the Shelf of New Federal Records Center



The Southeast Federal Records Center has broken all the rules for constructing Federal buildings. Construction was finished in record time. The official groundbreaking was

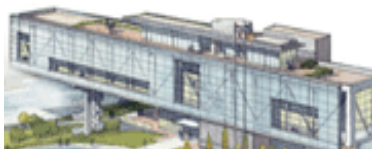
February 19, 2004, and the building is ready for occupancy—of both people and boxes.

The facility is located in Southpark Industrial Park in Ellenwood, Georgia, just a few miles from the new archival facility in Morrow. The 350,000 square-foot facility has a capacity of 1,750,000 cubic feet and stack space of 295,000 square feet. Among the special programs that the Federal Records Center will offer are records recovery and processing and electronic services.



James Wade, Records Center employee, was selected to place the first box on the shelf.

Clinton Library Opens in November, 2004



When a President leaves office, what happens to the tons of historical materials created by the President of the United States and the

White House staff? In the case of the Clinton Administration, those materials include over 77 million documents, 75,000 artifacts, 1.8 million photographs, and 40 million E-mail messages.

With the assistance of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), those records are collected and removed from the White House offices. NARA staff carefully processes these records according to Federal laws.

The opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, where those records have been deposited, is scheduled for November 14-18, 2004.

The Clinton Presidential Center will include the Presidential Library and Archives, the renovation of the abandoned Rock Island Railway Bridge as a pedestrian crossing, and the renovation of the historic Choctaw Station, built in 1899. The University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service will be located in Choctaw Station.

The main purpose of a presidential library is to preserve and help explain history. In accordance with the terms of the Presidential Records Act of 1978, all Presidential records are closed for the first five years following the end of a President's term. The Clinton Project has begun processing the Presidential record material to ensure that a wide variety of Presidential records will be readily available at the future Clinton Library on January 20, 2006, five years after the end of the Clinton Administration.

Visitors to the Clinton Presidential Center will see cherished gifts from foreign heads of state, including a mother-of-pearl depiction of Leonardo DaVinci's "Last Supper" given to President Clinton by Yasser Arafat. One of the most entertaining exhibits will be the former President's Elvis Collection.

New Microfilm Available in Research Room

The Southeast Region has added the following microfilm to our holdings.

M1907 Records of the Field Offices for the State of Mississippi. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. 65 rolls.

M1876 1930 Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Hawaii, Agriculture. 12 rolls.

M1797 1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Advertising Agencies. 1 roll.

M2066 1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Banking and Financial Institutions. 31 rolls.

M2068 1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Miscellaneous Enterprises. 103 rolls.

M2069 1935 Census of Business: Public Warehousing. 6 rolls.

M2070 1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Radio Broadcasting Stations. 1 roll.

Jewels in Our Crown

Records of the Confederate Courts, 1861 – 1864

As most of our readers know, the National Archives is the nation's recordkeeper. The holdings of all National Archives facilities are the documentary evidence of the government of the United States—records created by federal agencies throughout our history. But, what about the records of that other country—the Confederate States of America?

The “Rebel Archives”

On July 21, 1865, the Secretary of War established a unit in the Adjutant General's Office for the collection, safekeeping, and publication of the “Rebel Archives.” The War Department collection of Confederate Records consists of records of the Confederate States of America acquired by capture or surrender at the close of the Civil War and those later acquired by donation or purchase. The records were used in protecting the U. S. Government against claims arising from the war, in establishing pension claims, and for historical purposes. After many changes both in location and custody, the records were finally transferred to the National Archives in 1938.

In the Southeast Region, seven of our eight states were part of the Confederacy. Each of the states set up Confederate District Courts which exercised the powers of both the U. S. District Court and the U. S. Circuit Court. All business pending in the United States courts was transferred to the Confederate Courts when the machinery of the Confederate States government was set up.

The Confederate Courts often occupied the courtroom and chambers of the United States courts. They also used the federal dockets and tried the unfinished business pending when the United States courts ceased to function in 1861. The records are often intermingled. For example, the records of the Confederate States District Court for North Carolina, 1861 – 65, are interfiled with the records of the Raleigh Division of the U. S. District Court. The same is true for the records of the Confederate Court in Alabama; they are filed with the U. S. District Court records from Mobile.

Sequestration Records

On August 30, 1861, the Confederate States of America enacted a law “for the Sequestration of Estates, Property, and Effects of alien enemies.”

The Confederate government initiated sequestration cases against tangible property in the Confederate States which belonged to “alien enemies” of the Confederacy, i.e., citizens of the United States. As a result of the sequestration action, the Confederate government took possession of the property.

A typical sequestration case might contain the petition for sequestration filed by the receiver and show the name of the alien enemy, his place of residence, and the property in question; any liens and claims against the sequestered property; briefs, demurrers, and subpoenas; and orders, opinions, and judgments.

Most of the Confederate Court case files relate to property seized from Union sympathizers under this act, but other records relate to cases involving treason, mail robbery, and harboring deserters. These records also include subpoenas, jury lists, writs, and court orders and rules.

Garnishment Records

The government of the Confederacy filed garnishment proceedings against a citizen of the Confederate States who owed a debt to a person or company in the United States. These suits resulted in the debt becoming payable to the Confederate government.

A typical garnishment case file might contain the writ of garnishment, interrogatories to the garnishee concerning any debts he owed to citizens of the United States, answers of the garnishee, and orders and judgments of the court.

David Martin and the *Wanderer*

A frequent research question in our region involves the prosecution of several cases growing out of the expedition of the slave ship, the *Wanderer*, and its captain, David Martin. Martin was in jail in Savannah awaiting trial when Georgia seceded from the Union. The Confederate Court tried him on an indictment issued by the Federal court, based on the violation of a United States statute. The trial took place during the war. He was convicted and sentenced to prison.

Tennessee's Civil Commission

The State of Tennessee produced no Confederate Court records because Union forces invaded Tennessee early in 1862 and captured Forts Henry and Donelson and the city of Nashville, forcing Tennessee's government to flee. West Tennessee was occupied in June 1862 and put under martial law. In April 1863, the Union army formed a Civil Commission at Memphis to “hear and determine all complaints and suits instituted by loyal citizens of the United States for the collection of debts, enforcements of contracts, the prevention of fraud, the recovery of possessions of property, real and personal, and generally to perform such duties and exercise such power as can be done by a Commission deriving its power from military authority.

NARA's Southeast Region also holds nine rolls of microfilm reproducing the records of the U. S. Civil Commission at Memphis, 1863-1864. The microfilm number is T410.

The Federal court records for the U. S. District Court in Nashville also contain a record of oaths taken by Confederate soldiers to re-enter the Union as citizens. That docket includes the name of the soldier, the entry number, and the date.

--Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Archivist

Southern Claims Commission

The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to settle the claims of Southerners who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. A special board of three commissioners appointed by the President examined thousands of claims for property damages. Their charge was to “receive, examine, and consider the claims of those citizens who remained loyal adherents to the cause and the government of the United States during the war, for stores or supplies taken or furnished during the rebellion.”

The records of the Southern Claims Commission are interesting because they include fascinating details about a specific segment of the southern population.

The commissioners were to satisfy themselves of the loyalty of each claimant; certify the amount, nature, and value of the property taken or furnished; and report their judgment on each claim in writing to the House of Representatives. The House would then vote to approve or disallow the claim, and to appropriate money for payment.

Because a number of different governmental offices were involved in the settlement process, the records of the Commission are divided among several record groups. The barred and disallowed case files are part of RG 233, Records of the United States House of Representatives.

The case files for the allowed claims are in RG 217, Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury.

The administrative records and correspondence files of the Commission are among the General Records of the Department of the Treasury, RG 56. The Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887 provided for further adjudication of some disallowed cases by the Court of Claims. Records relating to those cases may be found in RG 123, Records of the United States Court of Claims and RG 205, Records of the Court of Claims Section (Justice).

All of the above records are available from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland.

The following records are available in the microfilm research room of NARA's Southeast Region:

Microfiche 1658
Southern Claims Commission Approved Claims, 1871-1880: Georgia
1100 microfiche sheets

This microfiche publication reproduces the approved case files of claims submitted from the State of Georgia. There are 629

individual approved case files arranged alphabetically by county and thereunder by name of claimant.

The Descriptive Pamphlet accompanying this microfiche publication lists the approved claimants case files in this order, and also provides the case file number, as well as the number of fiche containing the case file. There is also a list of the approved claimants alphabetically by surname and thereunder by claim number, and county. Researchers should consult the Descriptive Pamphlet before beginning their research.

Microfilm M87
Records of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission), 1871 – 1880.
14 rolls

This microfilm publication includes the journal of the commissioners, miscellaneous letters and papers, and reports.

Microfilm P2257
Records of the U. S. House of Representatives: Southern Claims Commission, 1871 – 1800.
1 roll

This microfilm publication includes the “Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives from 1871 to 1880” and “Summary Reports of the Commissioners of Claims in all Cases Reported to Congress as Disallowed Under the Act of March 3, 1871 (4 vols.)”

The following microfiche is available at Archives I in Washington, DC:

Microfiche M1407
Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871 – 1880.
4829 microfiche sheets

The approved and disallowed case files can contain similar types of documents such as claimant's petitions, depositions of neighbors and other persons, inventories for supplies and property for which compensation was desired, correspondence, reports of the special agents, reports from the Treasury Department relative to its investigation of a claimant's disloyalty, and the final summary and the certificate of settlement issued by the Third Auditor of the Treasury. Because barred claims contain very little documentation, researchers will find them less informative for genealogical purposes. These files generally contain the original petition and little else. Any additional information found in the files usually concerns disloyalty.

*--Mary Evelyn Tomlin
Archivist*

Our National Treasure

National Treasure Stars Declaration of Independence



On November 19, 2004, Disney will release the movie *National Treasure*. While we don't usually allot much space to current movies in *The Civil History*, this one is a little different. Nicholas Cage gets star billing, but the real star is the Declaration of Independence, in the custody of the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Plot: Cage plays Ben Franklin Gates, an archaeologist-historian who is searching for a treasure no one believed existed. Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who've all hunted for a war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers after the Revolutionary War. Ben's close to discovering its whereabouts, as is his competition, but the FBI is also hip to the hunt. The treasure was hidden by America's Founding Fathers, and a map to it appears on the back of the Declaration of Independence, written in, perhaps, invisible ink. Gates must steal the document—the most guarded document in American history.

The Facts: There is writing on the back of the original, signed Declaration of Independence, neither invisible (as in the movie) nor a map. The writing on the back reads:

“Original Declaration of Independence, dated 4th July 1776”

It appears on the bottom on the document, upside down.

The document does however, have a handprint on the bottom left corner. The origins and circumstances of the handprint are not known. The document was handled, rolled, and transported, and exhibited extensively in its early life. Attempting to clean the handprint and other soil that has worked into the parchment could damage the fragile document.

The original Declaration of Independence is housed in an encasement, ballistically tested to ensure safety, in the rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It is closely guarded, and it's highly unlikely that adventurers or anyone else would be able to steal it. The original was delivered to the custody of the Archivist of the United States on December 15, 1952.

There are 25 copies known to exist of what is commonly referred to as “the Dunlap broadside.” These printed versions are on paper, not parchment, and were read aloud from town squares throughout the colonies so that those who could not read would receive the news about the intended separation from England.

And, no, the movie was not filmed inside the National Archives Building. A reproduction of the Declaration of Independence—not the real thing—was used in filming the movie. The original is safe and sound and yours to see in the Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Also on display are the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. These three historic documents are called The Charters of Freedom. You can read more about them at www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/charters.html

You may purchase a 24 ½” x 37 ½” copy of the Declaration of Independence from NARA. Please telephone the sales desk during normal business hours at 866-272-6272 and ask for Item 6312. Copies will also be available for purchase at the Southeast Region's new Visitor Learning Center in Morrow, Georgia, beginning April 1, 2005.

If your holiday plans include visiting Washington, D.C., the National Archives and Records Administration will present a special weekend of family activities related to the release of *National Treasure*. Activities include a reenactment that allows the visitor to experience two of our nation's greatest dramas—the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the Constitution. Visitors also can learn how skilled artisans create ink and paper to make documents similar to those long ago.

Activities are planned for the weekend of Saturday, December 11 – Sunday, December 12, 2004. Check our website at www.archives.gov for more details.

University Presses Offer Wide Range of Books on History

University presses are a rare breed of publishers. They provide an opportunity for the creative use of language and the development of new ideas. They differ from commercial publishers in that they are able to publish titles that commercial publishers might not find profitable. Though scholarship is the charge of university presses, most also publish books which appeal to a wide audience. The university presses in the Southeast Region publish a wealth of scholarly titles, and many of the authors rely on the resources of the National Archives for their primary research.

Readers will be pleased to know that when NARA's Visitor Learning Center opens in 2005, it will include a bookstore dedicated to offering titles of interest to scholars, family historians, teachers, and the general public. We offer a look at a few new titles published by university presses that will be available.

TVA Photography: Thirty Years of Life in the Tennessee Valley by Patricia Bernard Ezzell. An extraordinary collection of photographs documenting life in the Tennessee Valley.
University Press of Mississippi
2003

Before Scopes: Evangelicalism, Education, and Evolution in Tennessee, 1870-1925 by Charles A. Israel. A look at the origins of the 1925 *Tennessee v. John Scopes* case—the Scopes Monkey Trial held in Dayton, Tennessee.
University of Georgia Press
2004

Atlas of the Civil War, Month by Month: Major Battles and Troop Movements by Mark Swanson. A panoramic, chronological view of the Civil War.
University of Georgia Press
2004

The Reconstruction of Southern Debtors: Bankruptcy after the Civil War by Elizabeth Lee Thompson. An analysis of how federal bankruptcy legislation helped entrench the white power structure in the post-Civil War South.
University of Georgia Press
2004

Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King by John S. Lupold and Thomas L. French, Jr. The first full-length biography of the man who rose from slavery to become a master bridge builder.
University of Georgia Press
2004

At Work in the Atomic City: A Labor and Social History of Oak Ridge, Tennessee by Russell Olwell. Explores the world of the workers at Oak Ridge, Tennessee—the “city behind a fence” where work was done on the atomic bomb.
University of Tennessee Press
2004

Choctaw Tales collected and annotated by Tom Mould. A treasury of tribal lore told by past and present Choctaw storytellers.
University Press of Mississippi
2004

A Bachelor's Life in Antebellum Mississippi: The Diary of Dr. Elijah Millington Walker, 1849-1852 edited by Lynette Boney Wrenn. Chronicles the difficulties of an ambitious young physician.
University of Tennessee Press
2004

The South Carolina Rice Plantation as Revealed in the Papers of Robert F. W. Allston edited by J. H. Easterby. A classic look at one of South Carolina's most influential antebellum dynasties and the institutions of slavery and plantation agriculture upon which it was built.
University of South Carolina Press
2004

The Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Military Park by Timothy B. Smith. The story of Shiloh veterans who pushed the Federal government into establishing the park.
University of Tennessee Press
2004

Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi by Michael B. Ballard. An in-depth analysis of the longest single military campaign of the Civil War. The author addresses soldier attitudes, guerrilla warfare, and the effects on civilians in and around Vicksburg.
University of North Carolina Press
2004

The Memory of the Civil War in America edited by Alice Fahs and Joan Waugh. Twelve essays by leading Civil War scholars who demonstrate how the meanings of the Civil War have changed over time.
University of North Carolina Press
2004

North Carolina Slave Narratives: The Lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy, and Thomas H. Jones edited by William L. Andrews. The autobiographies of former slaves who contributed to the abolitionist movement.
University of North Carolina Press
2003

We Shall Not Be Moved: The Desegregation of the University of Georgia by Robert A. Pratt. The compelling story of Horace Ward, Charlayne Hunter, and Hamilton Holmes and the tumultuous events surrounding the desegregation of Georgia's flagship institution.
University of Georgia Press
2002

Letter Extols the Beauty of the Georgia Islands

*Isle of Wight
Dorchester, Ga
Dec. 5th 1933*

"... Isle of Wight is up the Medway River from Sunbury about ten miles by water... Looking down the Medway River from Isle of Wight, the northern end of St. Catherines Island can be seen on a clear day. Bryan Neck, owned by Mr. Henry Ford, obstructs the view of Ossabaw Island owned and improved by Dr. H. N. Torrey of Detroit, Mich. Mr. C. M. Keys, N. Y. Broker now owns Saint Catherines Island and has put between \$950,000 to \$1,000,000.00 into it in the past 3 or 4 years. Further down the Coast is Sapelo Island owned by Mr. Howard Coffin, St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island the millionaires Club and Cumberland Island owned principally by the Carnegie's of Pittsburg, Pa.

There is no use to tell you of the beauty of this section, which is of course a different beauty from the East Coast of Florida and the climate more exuberating. A close friend who for years has spent his winters along the Atlantic Coast from Miami to Atlantic City and he prefers the Georgia and S. Carolina Coast during the winter for that reason."

*E. L. Bergstrom to Chas. Umfreville, Pres.
Umfreville Navigation & Construction Co.
Baltimore, Md.*

Unfortunately, Mr. Bergstrom filed for bankruptcy in 1933 during the depths of the Depression. His property was for sale, and he was writing to an executive in Baltimore inviting him to come down and inspect it for a possible purchase.

From the Records of the U. S. District Court, Savannah.

Friends of the National Archives

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Address Correction Requested