

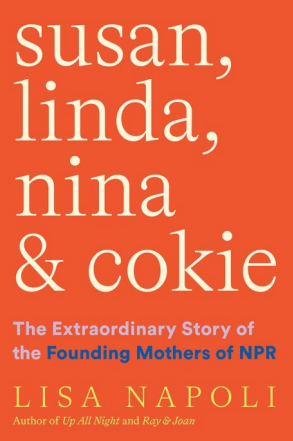


National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

Upcoming Virtual Programs at the National Archives

The National Archives is continuing to offer a full slate of public programs in April. An extensive list can be found [here](#). Below are several highlights on a variety of topics. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Standard Time.

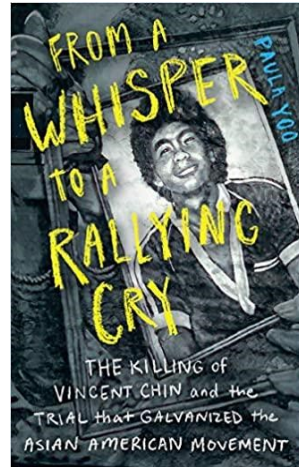
Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR



On **Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. EST**, the National Archives will host **Lisa Napoli** for a discussion of her book, **Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie**. In the years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, women in the workplace still found themselves relegated to secretarial positions or locked out of jobs entirely. This was especially true in the news business. But when a pioneering nonprofit called National Public Radio came along in the 1970s, four remarkable women blew off the door to serious journalism. Joining Napoli in conversation are NPR's "Founding Mothers:" **Susan Stamberg, Linda Wertheimer, and Nina Totenberg**. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).

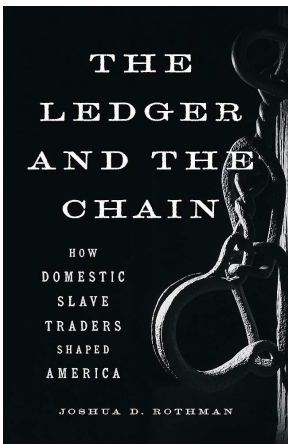
From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement

On **Tuesday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m. EST**, the National Archives will host **Paula Yoo** for a discussion of her book, **From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry**. In 1982, anti-Asian American sentiment simmered, especially in Detroit, where U.S. autoworkers believed Japanese car companies were costing them their jobs. A bar fight turned fatal, leaving a Chinese American man, Vincent Chin, beaten to death at the hands of two white men. Yoo examines the killing and the trial. When the killers received a \$3,000 fine and probation, the community outrage led to a federal civil rights trial - the first involving a crime against an Asian American - and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America

On **Tuesday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m. EST**, the National Archives will host Joshua Rothman for a discussion of his book **The Ledger and the Chain**. Slave traders are peripheral figures in most histories of American slavery. But these men - who trafficked and sold over half a million enslaved people from the Upper South to the Deep South - were essential to slavery's expansion and fueled the growth and prosperity of the United States. Rothman recounts the forgotten story of America's internal slave trade—and its role in the making of America. Moderating this program is **Rachel Swarns** of the *New York Times*. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



April 2021

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Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 W. Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

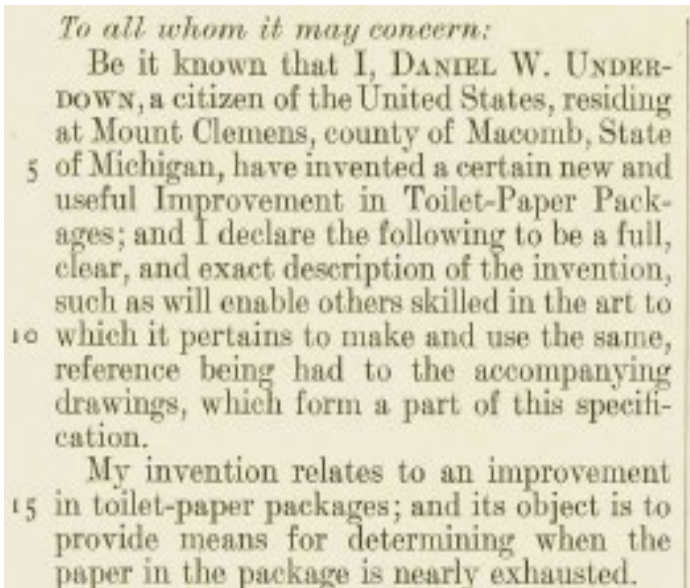
Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Lavatory Luxuries and the Patenting Thereof

In the same way one can spend hours performing internet searches on various topics of history, pop culture, and innovation, the same can be true for searches performed within the National Archives and Records Administration's Record Group 241, Records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. These records run the gamut across consumerism, manufacturing and improvement to include products such as artificial flowers, bird and rodent guards for building ledges and porticoes, and even products of a more...personal nature, such as toilet paper. The Patent Case Files offer a diverse look into nearly any topic imaginable; and there is no denying that the subject of toilet paper has spent more time at the forefront of our minds this past year, than ever before, in its long history.

The Patent Case Files maintained by the National Archives at Kansas City span the years 1836 to 1978. A close look at early patent case files relating to the restroom tissue date back to at least the 1880s when some of the earliest toilet paper related patents were issued. Ranging in utility from the fixture which holds the roll itself, to the use and

style of the perforations on a traditional toilet paper roll, the packaging, and everything in between. Put simply, inventors have been contemplating the washroom necessity ever since.



To all whom it may concern:
Be it known that I, DANIEL W. UNDERDOWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mount Clemens, county of Macomb, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Toilet-Paper Packages; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.
My invention relates to an improvement in toilet-paper packages; and its object is to provide means for determining when the paper in the package is nearly exhausted.

In 1905, Daniel Underdown of Michigan patented new and improved Toilet Paper Packaging. Identified as Patent number 832,054, the invention sought to make it more obvious to the user that the end of the roll is approaching. His patent indicated this would be accomplished via a solid black core emblazoned with white letters stating "The End" as a means to make it visible through the translucent tissue that the end of the roll is rapidly approaching. Decades later, inventor Lawrence Heinle of San Mateo, California, was also issued a toilet-paper related patent. Heinle, who according to the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, originally hailed from Ohio where he worked as a manager at an engraving company. Heinle filed a patent for a Toilet Paper Roll Core and in 1959 he was issued patent number 2,889,121 after demonstrating that his new toilet paper roll core reduced the quantity of material in a toilet paper roll core, was a core which allowed for access through the core to the mount, and even provided a readily disintegrating core which would aid in the disposal of the core once the roll of toilet paper had been emptied.

Above: Excerpt from the specification page of Patent Case File number 832,054 issued to Daniel W. Underdown on December 25, 1906. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, 1836-1978, Utility Patent Case Files, 1836-1978. Patent Case File 832,054, National Archives at Kansas City (National Archives Identifier 302050).

Visible in the drawing Heinle submitted with his patent

application are long, wide openings which would thus allow for access to the spindle of the toilet paper holder creating ease by which the spent core can be removed from the holder. By nature, the openings in the core meant that less material would be used in the creation and manufacture of the core, and certain score lines marked on the interior of the core would allow for a more rapid disintegration should the core be tossed into the toilet, thus preventing clogging or possible plumbing damage.

There is no doubt that the Patent Case Files allow for a rather thorough examination of the history of toilet paper, its constructs, its dispensers and holders, and at the core, the very core itself. A plethora of inventors have spent valuable time improving, creating and ultimately contemplating the role that toilet paper plays in our everyday life. There are thousands of patent case files to support this claim, all submitted in the name of bringing improvements and innovation to the ever valuable lavatory commodity.

If the improvements and innovations that have led to the formation and accessibility of toilet paper as we know it today - or improvements in any manufactured modern convenience - intrigues you, consider searching Google Patents (a patent-specific search engine) for a wide range of inventions that have been issued patent protection by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Additionally, research in other types of patent records currently held by the National Archives at Kansas City and other National Archives locations can be accomplished by visiting the [Catalog](#). Such records include Patent Case Files, Design Patent Case Files, Plant Patent Case Files, Patent Interference Case Files and other records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

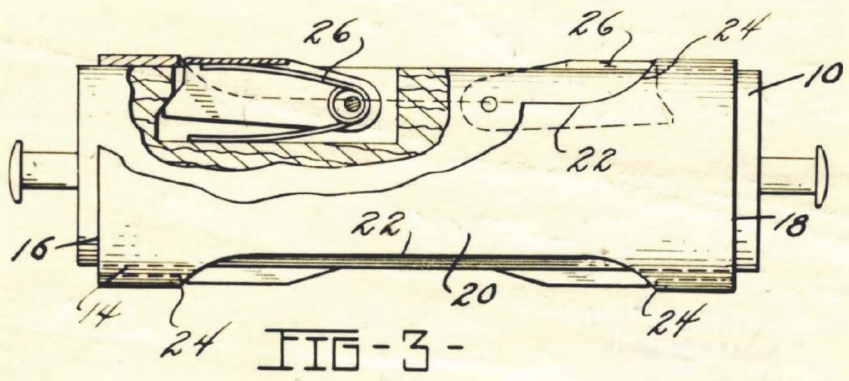
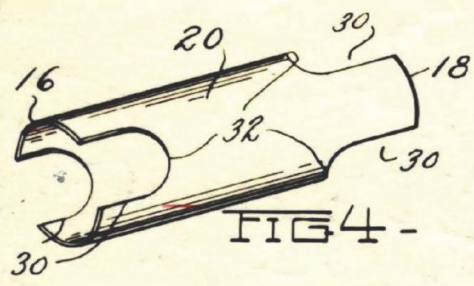
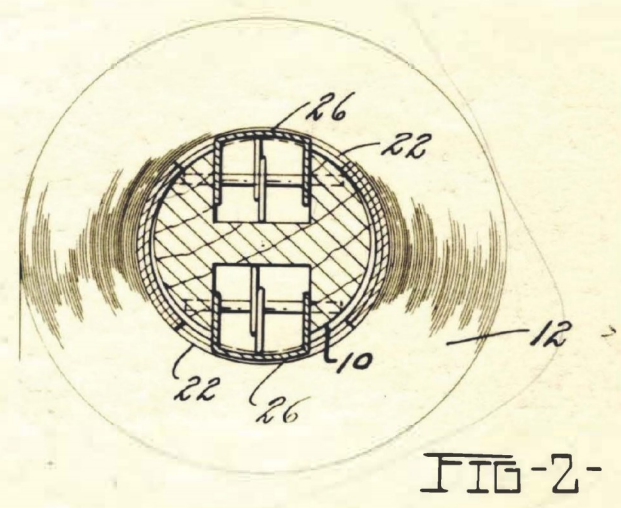
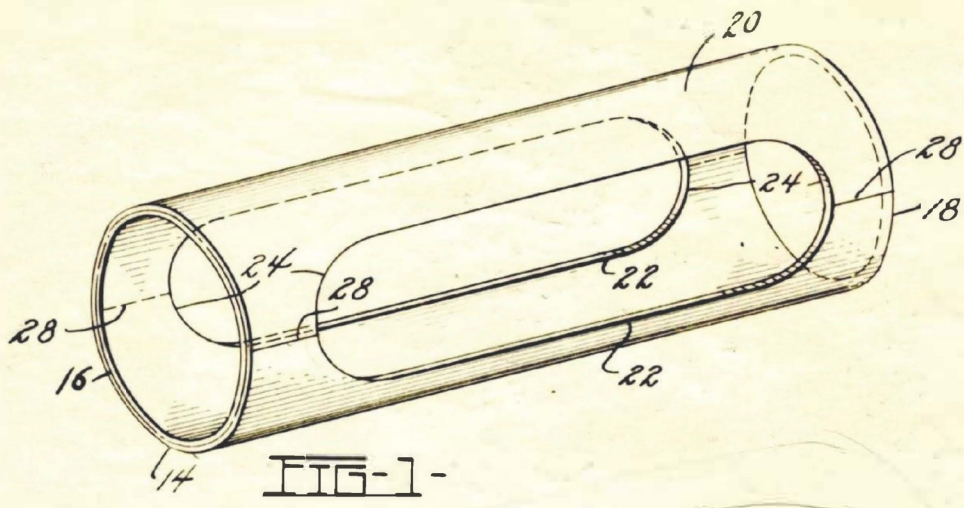
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AUG 29 1958

Pat. 2,889,121 271938

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PRINT OF DRAWING AS
ORIGINALLY FILED



INVENTOR:
LAWRENCE A. HEINLE.
BY
Wm. O. Ballard

April Virtual Programs for Educators and Students

Young Learners Program - Meet Walt Whitman on Thursday, April 15 at 11:00 a.m. EST

Walt Whitman is best known as a poet and for his unique style found in *Leaves of Grass*. Overcome by the suffering he saw during the Civil War, Whitman lived in Washington, DC, to help in the hospitals and then stayed for 10 more years working as clerk for the federal government. Whitman was deeply affected by the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and wrote several poems memorializing President Lincoln, including "O Captain! My Captain!" A question-and-answer session with Walt Whitman, portrayed by scholar and actor **Darrel Blaine**, will follow the presentation. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



The National Archives
Comes Alive!

Young Learners Program
Walt Whitman

Thursday, April 15, 11 am ET
Featuring Darrel Blaine Ford
Long Island Scholar and Actor



National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of March 31, 2021)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries. Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended until further notice. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).



GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us [@KCArchives](#). Follow us on Instagram at [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.