



The 2008-2009 National History Day topic is *The Individual in History*. In preparation for studying this theme, the National Archives

Central Plains Region has compiled a list of suggested research materials. The Central Plains Region is home to thousands of pages of documents that chronicle the lives of individuals—famous and infamous—as well as records which document the lives of everyday, ordinary persons.

Our records contain materials relating to individuals such as entertainer Chuck Berry; “Wild West” figures William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody and the Dalton Gang; American Indian leaders Crazy Horse, Plenty Horses, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, and Standing Bear; filmmaker Walt Disney; inventor Thomas Edison; military leaders George Custer and JEB Stuart; labor leader “Big Bill” Haywood; criminal Robert “The Birdman of Alcatraz” Stroud; anti-war activists Kate Richards O’Hare and Rose Pastor Stokes; Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky; presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Harry Truman; plus more!

Please contact the archives for more information or to schedule a visit.



Shortly before his assassination, Leon Trotsky posed with American Trotskyites Harry De Boer and James H. Bartlett and their spouses; print autographed by Trotsky, April 5, 1940, from RG 21

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is America’s national record keeper, a public trust on which our democracy depends. The Central Plains Region is one of 14 NARA regional archives facilities nationwide where the public has access to federal records. It is home to more than 45,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1810s to the 1990s from nearly 100 federal agencies. The Central Plains Region houses records from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. We are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about the education programs at the National Archives-Kansas City, please contact:

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Central Plains Region
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Kansas City, MO 64131
Phone: 816-268-8000
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Information specifically about National History Day can be found online at <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/>

Open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Selected finding aids, including a comprehensive guide to archival holdings, are available by mail and online: www.archives.gov/central-plaints/kansas-city/public/index.html Research can be initiated in person, by telephone, mail, fax, or electronic mail. Individuals who wish to use original records on-site will facilitate their research by calling before visiting.

On cover: *Inmates from the Leavenworth Prison files RG 129*



THE INDIVIDUAL IN HISTORY



National History Day 2009

Federal Census Records

The first Federal Population Census was taken in 1790, and has been taken every ten years since. The National Archives-Central Plains Region has the census schedules from 1790-1930. From 1850 to 1930, the details provided for all individuals in each household, may include: names; ages; state or country of birth; parents' birthplaces; year of immigration; street address; marriage status and years of marriage; occupation(s); value of home and personal belongings, etc. No matter which "individual in history" you are researching, the Federal Population Census is a must-use primary source.



Signatures of
Thomas Edison (left)
and Thurgood
Marshall (bottom)



Plaintiff's Attorneys.

Industrial Workers of the World

The Industrial Workers of the World, or Wobblies, were a union made up of socialists, anarchists, and labor radicals who opposed World War I on principle, but took no public stand on it. In 1917 dozens of Wobblies were rounded up in government raids and put on trial under the Espionage Act. The largest trial took place in Chicago where the accused were convicted and sentenced up to 20 years in Federal prison. Wobblies appear in various court documents and Leavenworth inmate records.

RG 21, and RG 129



Women advocate food conservation during World War I. (above)

Mafia Men

Big city mobsters from 1930-1970 can be found throughout the holdings of the National Archives. These mobsters include Johnny Lazia, Nick Civella, and Thomas Egan's "rats". Information regarding these individuals can be found in the Federal court and Leavenworth Penitentiary inmate records.

RG 21 and RG 129



The Oxley Stave Company v. Coopers

International Union of North America, Lodge

The Oxley Stave Company sued the Coopers International Union in an effort to prevent a boycott. The Coopers International Union of North America threatened a boycott because men were losing their jobs to new technology. The company switched to barrel reinforcers made by a machine as opposed to man-made. The machines were able to do the work of six or seven men causing the loss of jobs and forcing layoffs. The case highlights the "growing pains" that accompanied the industrial boom and the threat to the skilled craftsman's livelihood.

RG 21 USDC-Topeka, KS Law and Equity Case #7284

Chuck Berry

Despite Chuck Berry's success on the rock and roll music charts, he was charged with violating the Mann Act which prohibited transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes. He was convicted and served time in the Springfield Federal Penitentiary. Violating the Mann Act was not his first encounter with the law; prior to it, he was also charged with robbery in the first degree in Missouri, and the possession of firearms.

RG 21 USDC-St. Louis, MO #59 CR 322

"Annie Oakley" v. Globe Printing Company

On August 10, 1903, Chicago newspaper printed a story about famous markswoman Annie Butler (Annie Oakley). The story alleged that she had been charged with stealing a man's trousers in order to sell them for money to buy cocaine. The story was published in 40 additional newspapers including the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. She sued against the Globe Printing Company publisher of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* because of the false story, causing her a loss of health and damage to her professional reputation. She requested \$20,000 in compensation, but the case was "dismissed by plaintiff at the defendant's costs."

RG 21 USDC -St. Louis, MO Law and Equity Case #8375

Leavenworth Penitentiary Inmates

Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary was the first Federal penitentiary in the United States. Since its origin in 1895, the prison has seen an array of convicts: horse thieves to murders. For each of the inmates that has been to the "Big House," a case file was created documenting the inmates' medical and behavioral history, personal correspondence, mug shot, and work records. These records provide a window look into the lives of inmates.

RG 129 Bureau of Prisons Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary

Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits

During World War I, the United States Government feared that Germans immigrants living in the United States posed a security threat. To combat this fear the immigrants and their spouses were required to fill out an Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits. These registrations characterize the fear of German espionage that gripped the United States during World War I. (featured at bottom)

RG 118 Records of U.S. Attorneys & Marshals,
District of Topeka, Kansas General Records

