

February 2014

Fifty Years of Civil Rights: The Movement that Changed the World Panel Discussion at the National Archives

On Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives at Kansas City, in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, will host a panel discussion titled *Fifty Years of Civil Rights: The Movement that Changed the World*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the program.



Above: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the 1964 Civil Rights Act as Martin Luther King, Jr. and others look on in the East Room of the White House on July 2, 1964. Image courtesy of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library, photo by Cecil Stoughton.

Congress asserted its authority to legislate under several different parts of the United States Constitution, principally its power to regulate interstate commerce under Article One (section 8), its duty to guarantee all citizens equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment, and its duty to protect voting rights under the Fifteenth Amendment. The Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964, at the White House.

This panel will provide the public an opportunity to meet a group of local Kansas City community activists who lived through segregation, broke barriers, and helped to create equal opportunities for blacks in Kansas City and other cities across the country. The public will hear their stories of triumphs and challenges during a turbulent time in American history. Panel participants include: **Shirley Bolden, Lee Bohannon, Willie Dove, Elvis Gibson, Edith Haney Galvin, Irene Marcus, and Richard Tolbert**. Opening remarks will be provided by **Dennis Robinson**, president of the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group. The moderator will be **Anita Russell**, president of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Local jazz legend **Mary Moore** will provide an a cappella opening of a Civil Rights-era song as a part of the program.

To make a reservation for this **free** program call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

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Upcoming Events

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

- FEBRUARY 12 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WEBINAR:
A GENEALOGIST'S
INTRODUCTION TO THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
- FEBRUARY 20 - 6:30 P.M.
PANEL DISCUSSION: FIFTY
YEARS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
- FEBRUARY 21 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
NATIONAL ARCHIVES:
WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO
- FEBRUARY 22 - 2:00 P.M.
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
FREEDOM RIDERS *
- FEBRUARY 22 - 5:00 P.M.
EXHIBIT CLOSING: FRED
HARVEY
- FEBRUARY 25 - 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE: JACK JOHNSON:
CONTRADICTIONS TO
HISTORY

* PROGRAM IS OFFSITE AT
THE BLACK ARCHIVES OF
MID-AMERICA

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering one free on-site genealogy workshop in February. The workshop, *The National Archives at Kansas City: Who We Are and What We Do*, will be held on Friday, February 21 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. The workshop will be held at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64108.

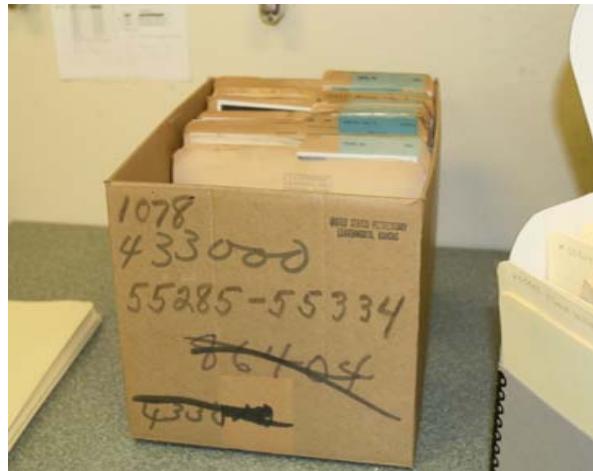
Workshop Description:

The National Archives at Kansas City: Who We Are and What We Do

Friday, February 21 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The National Archives at Kansas City is responsible for preserving and providing access to more than 70,000 cubic feet of permanently valuable historic Federal records created by nearly 100 different Federal agencies. Who decides what records are permanent? How often are new records received? What records are available? What records are of interest to me as a genealogist? How can I get access to these records? This workshop will provide an overview of the records held by the National Archives at Kansas City and answer these questions and more.

To make a reservation for this **free workshop**, please call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.



Left: Learn how records go from boxes looking like this...



Right: to boxes that look like this! The *Who We Are and What We Do* workshop will provide an overview of the processes involved in taking care of the nation's records.

Genealogy Webinar Workshops Now Offered at the Archives

Interested in attending a National Archives at Kansas City workshops but cannot make the drive or attend? The Archives is pleased to announce that free online interactive workshops will be offered for the first time in 2014. To participate you will need internet and telephone access on the day of the presentation. Specific directions for access will be sent the week of the presentation via email. Reserve your "seat" early, as space is limited. All webinars are from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Below is a list of upcoming webinars. To make a reservation for these **free** webinars, call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

February 12 – 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. -- A Genealogist's Introduction to the National Archives

Ever wonder what the National Archives is and how it can help you discover your family's past? This course will give an overview of the mission of the National Archives, its holdings, and Federal records of particular interest to family historians. Learn what to expect when researching at the National Archives.

March 12 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. -- Kansas City's Greatest Hits

From aliens, celebrities, and inmates to landmark cases and events, the National Archives at Kansas City maintains a wide breadth of records for the Midwest region and beyond. The records discussed will include: Alien Case Files, precedent setting cases from the Federal District and Appeals courts, significant Bureau of Indian Affairs documents, records of National Park Service sites, Civilian Conservation Corps camp project reports, and more! Learn about accessing frequently requested and unusual records, and gain insights into the "Greatest Hits" within Kansas City's holdings.

The Harvey Girls: Women Who Changed the West at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

On Thursday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m., curator **Dee Harris** will present *The Harvey Girls: Women Who Changed the West* at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. The program is **free** to the public. The Truman Library and Museum is located at 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, Missouri.

Almost any mention of the Harvey Girls brings to mind Judy Garland as a black-and-white clad waitress in the 1945 MGM movie "The Harvey Girls." But the real women who worked in Harvey eating houses were more than just waitresses - they were Harvey Girls - an efficient, well-trained, well-groomed corps of waitresses who played an invaluable role in railroad, restaurant, and women's history. Using resources from film, newspapers, magazines, and oral history interviews, Harris will present the story of how these women helped make Fred Harvey's Harvey Houses an indelible part of the American West.

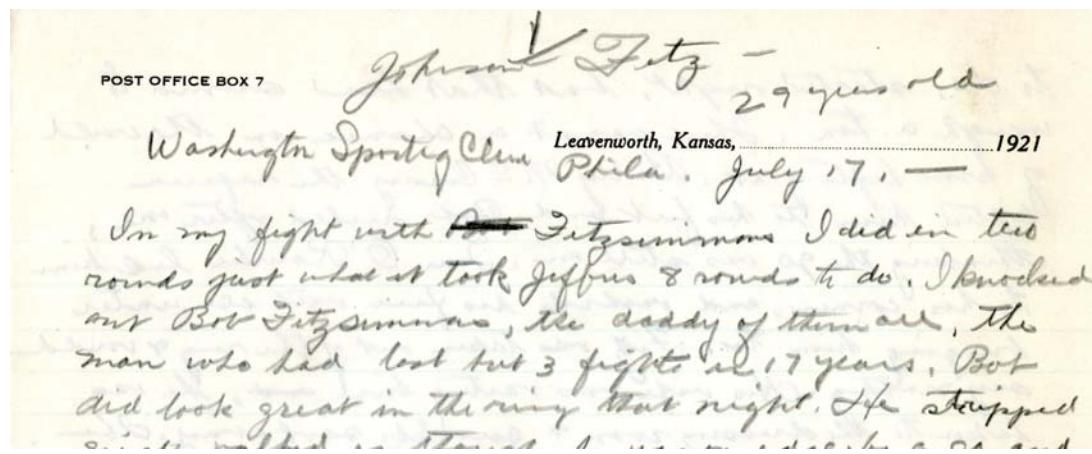
The *Fred Harvey: The Man, the Brand, and the American West* exhibition tells the story of Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls. It is available for viewing at the National Archives through Saturday, February 22, 2014. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Right: Virginia Green and Lucille Maxie left Kansas City to become Harvey Girls in Barstow, California, in the 1920s. Image courtesy of private lender.



Phil Dixon to Discuss Jack Johnson: Contradictions to History from a Heavyweight Champion's Unpublished Prison Manuscript

On Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives at Kansas City will host **Phil Dixon** for a lecture titled *Jack Johnson: Contradictions to History from a Heavyweight Champion's Unpublished Prison Manuscript*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the lecture.



Above: Excerpt from Jack Johnson's prison manuscript in which he describes a bout at the Washington Sporting Club in Philadelphia. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons, Inmate Case Files, 1895-1952, Jack Johnson, #15461.

Much has been written about America's first African American heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson. While a prisoner at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1921, Johnson attempted to journal his own life's story and document his highly controversial career in boxing. In Johnson's handwritten manifesto, penned on prison stationery, he not only explained the inside story of his fights and the boxers he faced; but also outlined his many experiences outside the

squared circle, including accounts of Johnson's personal opinions toward segregation. His is a story the public was never allowed to read, one written in defiance of all that was said against him, then, and now, as the world's first African American heavyweight champion, unintentional activist, and proud American. Dixon will discuss his research on Johnson's manuscript found within the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary inmate case files at the National Archives.

To make a reservation for this **free** event call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

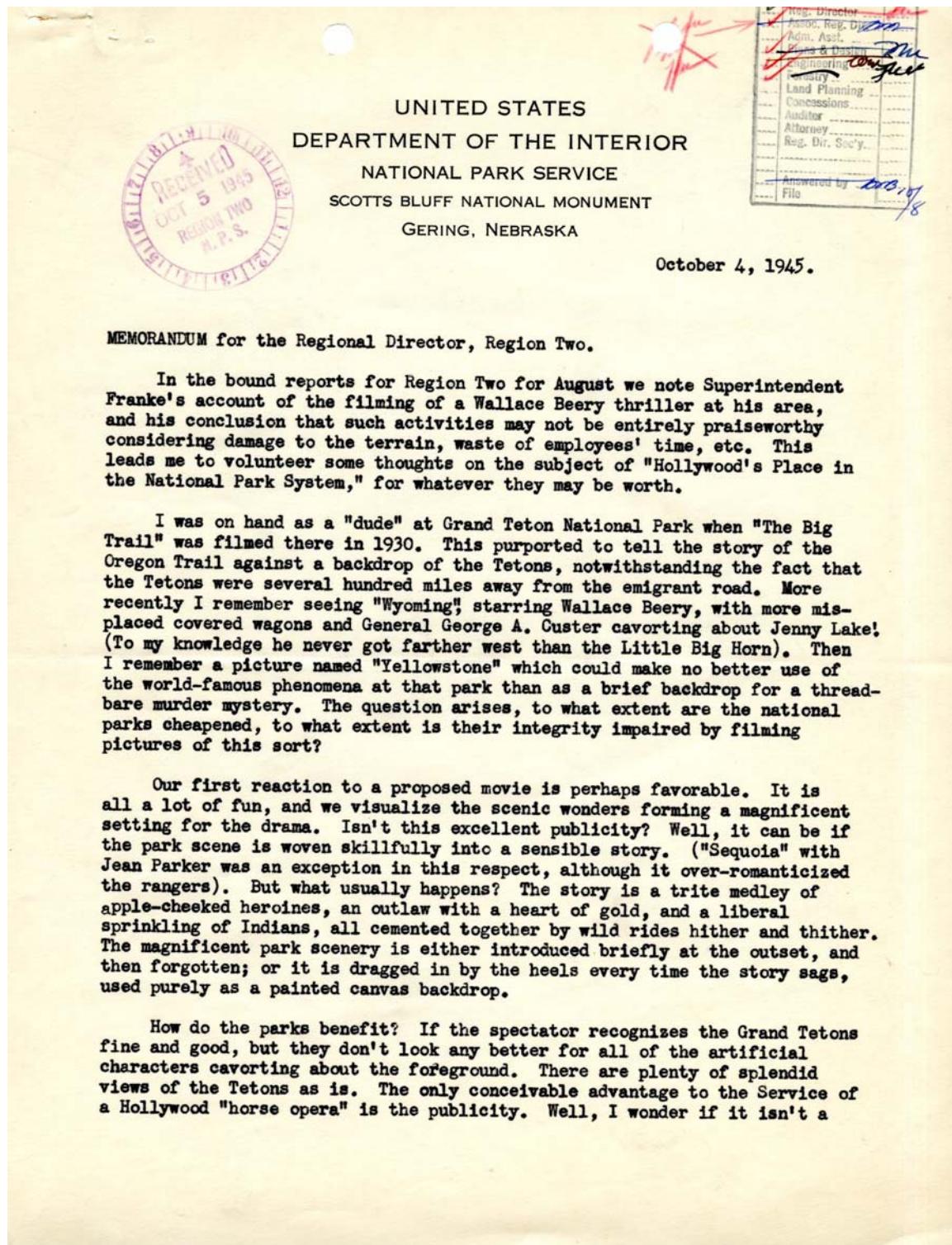
A Walk in the Park: Moving Pictures in the National Park System

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to more than 460 cubic feet of records created by the National Park Service. Among these records is one simple folder titled *Moving Pictures* and while the documents, dated approximately 1935 to 1952, seem mundane and bureaucratic at first glance, they provide insight into the role our national parks play in today's popular culture.

Over time, many national parks have served as the backdrop to automobile commercials, natural history documentaries, and even feature length Hollywood films. While the parks belong to the American people, these documents show the role that park staff played in protecting the nation's geographic heritage, and that even filmmakers must obtain approval from park administrators before any filming can commence; and for good reason.

A letter dated August 13, 1952, was sent by park officials to a film director from the Campbell-Ewald Company of General Motors, explaining that any movie scripts must be approved by National Park Service administrators prior to filming so as to avoid any conveyance of "... erroneous information or encourage undesirable or dangerous practices by visitors."

While commercial filmmakers may have found the approval requirements frustrating, the process shows that park administrators gave the utmost attention and devotion to historical accuracy when depicting the landscape that they protected. In 1945, discussion between the Director of the Grand Teton



Above: The first page of a letter written by the acting regional historian at Scotts Bluff National Monument regarding the integrity of the parks and the "cheapening" of the land by the Hollywood film industry. Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files, 1936-1952.

National Park and the Acting Regional Historian of the Scotts Bluff National Monument centered on the use of national

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Below: The second page of a letter written by Merrill J. Mattes regarding "Hollywood's Place in the National Park System." Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files, 1936-1952.

(Continued from page 4)

distorted, synthetic kind of publicity, and as for publicity generally, haven't the national parks had so much of it that the prime natural values we are obligated to protect are seriously threatened by the eager millions who are or will be storming the gates?

This may be true but purely academic if there is no way to prevent or regulate filming of movies in the national parks. However, I wonder if we could not exert our influence to have honest and artistically integrated films made in the parks instead of vaudeville thrillers which make the parks look ridiculous. I am not advocating that we add scenario-writing or directing to our growing list of burdens but perhaps there is something we can do to encourage productions which respect the majestic spirit of the national parks, and discourage those which violate it. Although travelogues or "camera essays" might seem to be the only safe media, I do not think that film dramas need be ruled out. There are some heart-warming and inspiring stories which could be told, based on accurate history or on an accurate portrayal of modern living, in which basic park values could play a leading role.

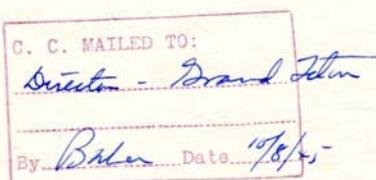
It is admittedly a difficult and delicate problem and I am not attempting to solve it, just to bring it up for discussion, if any.

Merrill J. Mattes

Merrill J. Mattes,
Acting Regional Historian.

(In triplicate)

cc: Supt., Rocky Mountain



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parks as a Hollywood backdrop and whether or not such use would be beneficial or detrimental. Merrill Mattes, the historian at Scotts Bluff, touches on the oftentimes distorted use of national parks in major films and references the use of Grand Teton National Park as a backdrop in the film *The Big Trail* starring John Wayne. Mattes wrote: "This purported to tell the story of the Oregon Trail against a backdrop of the Tetons, notwithstanding the fact that the Tetons were several hundred miles away from the emigrant road...The question arises, to what extent are the national parks cheapened, to what extent is their integrity impaired by filming pictures of this sort?"

In addition to the discussion over protecting the national parks from possible misrepresentation by Hollywood and retail manufacturers, these motion picture records also bring to light the responsibility that park staff felt over projecting an accurate image of our nation's national parks. Focused

primarily on the production of their own films as a means to increase park tourism in the post-war years, national park administrators even considered approaching Walt Disney in an effort to infuse the Hollywood mindset with accurate and educational information about the national parks. Though the suggestion to incorporate Walt Disney in filming productions was abandoned, it speaks to the vested interest park directors had in imparting the wondrous landscapes and cultural histories to visitors.

The Moving Pictures file is a part of the National Parks and Monuments General Classified Files, National Archives Identifier: 4709017. A folder list is available in the research room at the National Archives at Kansas City. For more information or to plan a visit the National Archives at Kansas City to learn more about our National Parks email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? Exhibition at the National Archives

Crimes Against Butter!

Oleomargarine became popular in the 1880s as a substitute for butter, causing a stir among American dairy farmers. To counteract the rise of imitation butter, the dairy industry spent big money trying to protect their business interests and stop the production of margarine. An 1886 farmer's petition issued dire warnings about what would happen if the Government continued to allow production of imitation dairy products, stating: "Our soils will be depleted and become barren, the dairy industry is doomed." Their efforts garnered success when Congress passed the Margarine Act of 1886, raising margarine prices through taxes and licensing.

To avoid paying the taxes and fees, a bootleg butter industry emerged to distribute imitation butter. While it was a profitable to those trafficking in yellow oleo, there were stiff penalties. Those caught committing crimes against butter paid the price of a stint in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Over 50 individuals were sentenced to prison at Leavenworth for oleomargarine-related crimes between 1911 and 1917. Public outcry against the taxes helped increase the demand for margarine, eventually pushing the Federal government to repeal margarine taxes in 1950.

Visitors can learn more about bootleg butter and see additional records relating to margarine traffickers in the exhibit *What's Cooking, Uncle Sam?: The Government's Effect on the American Diet*. The exhibit traces how food has occupied the hearts and minds of Americans and their government. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



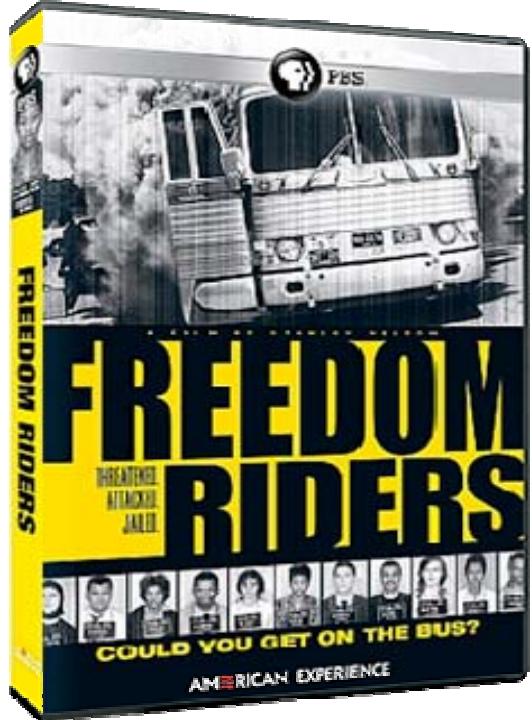
TRUSTY PRISONER'S AGREEMENT.

Name	Patrick Riedy	No.	7451	Color	White
Crime	Illegally manufacturing Oleomargarine				
Sentence	Five	years	----	months	----
Date of Sentence	Mar. 22nd, 1911			, Sent from Chicago, Ill	
Full term expires	Mar. 24th 1916			, Short term expires Nov. 31st, 1914	
Received at Penitentiary	Mar. 25th 1911			Occupation	Brakeman Age 24
Reasons for being made a Trusty prisoner					
Is the above stated name your right name? Yes.					
If not, what is your right name? _____					
Give a full history of the crime for which you were sent here. I was charged at Chicago, to- gether with J. Wirth, #7452 and F. Wirth #7453 with defrauding the Gov- ernment, it being alleged that we illegally colored Margarine, and avoided payment of the duties thereon.					
(State fully the nature of the crime. Persons injured physically, financially or otherwise. State when and where crime was committed. Name of persons with whom crime was committed and what was done with him or them. State the reason why the crime was committed and whether or not you plead guilty at the trial.)					
With whom do you correspond? Mr. M. Riedy Fon-du-lac Wis. Miss Mayme Conno " " "					
Where and by whom were you arrested? Wisconsin, by U. S. Marshall Scully					
Are you married? No Number of Children? ----					
Name and P. O. address of parents, Mr. P. Riedy, Malone, Wis					
Name and address of wife, ----					
Have you ever served sentence in Penitentiary, Reformatory, Work House or Jail before? No (State under what name, where and when.)					
Do you own any real estate? No (State where located and the value of it.)					
In consideration of being made a trusty prisoner, I Patrick Riedy, No. 7451 a prisoner in the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, do hereby pledge my word that I will not attempt to escape from said Penitentiary or Penitentiary Reservation, and will serve faithfully the unexpired part of my sentence.					
(Signature) <i>Patrick Riedy</i> Registered No. 7451					
Hess, Fon-du-lac Wis, W. Holz " "					

Above and left: Patrick Riedy was convicted and sentenced to five years at the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth for illegally manufacturing oleomargarine. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons, Inmate Case Files, 1895-1952.

Freedom Riders Documentary Film and Panel Discussion at the Black Archives

On **Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City, in partnership with the Black Archives of Mid-America and the University of Central Missouri's Center for Africana Studies will host a screening and discussion of the film, *Freedom Riders*. This film will be screened at the Black Archives located at 1722 East 17th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri.



Attracting a diverse group of volunteers—black and white, young and old, male and female, secular and religious, northern and southern—the Freedom Rides of 1961 took the civil rights struggle out of the courtroom and onto the streets of the Jim Crow South. *Freedom Riders* tells the terrifying, moving, and suspenseful story of a time when white and black volunteers riding a bus into the Deep South risked being jailed, beaten, or killed, as white local and state authorities ignored or encouraged violent attacks. The film includes previously unseen amateur 8-mm footage of the burning bus on which some Freedom Riders were temporarily trapped, taken by a local twelve-year-old and held as evidence since 1961 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The *Freedom Riders* film is a part of the *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* documentary film set. It is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its "Bridging Cultures" initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Following the screening a panel of speakers will answer questions related to the film topic. Speakers include: **Sharon Sanders Brooks**, former Kansas City Councilwoman and Missouri State Representative; **Dr. Bonita Butner**, Associate Professor and Division Chair, Educational Leadership, Policy & Foundations, University of Missouri-Kansas City; **Michael Patton**, retired educator, Kansas City, Missouri School District; **Dr. Gregory Streich**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Missouri and author of *Justice Beyond "Just Us": Dilemmas of Time, Place, and Difference in American Politics* and *Urban Social Capital: Civil Society and City Life*.

Foundations, University of Missouri-Kansas City; **Michael Patton**, retired educator, Kansas City, Missouri School District; **Dr. Gregory Streich**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Missouri and author of *Justice Beyond "Just Us": Dilemmas of Time, Place, and Difference in American Politics* and *Urban Social Capital: Civil Society and City Life*.

To make a reservation for this **free** program email info@blackarchives.org. Local residents who participated in the Freedom Rides and other civil rights activists will be recognized at the event. Light refreshments will be provided.

Locked Up in Leavenworth at the Kansas City Public Library

Mob bosses. Anarchists. Bootleggers. Thieves. They have all found a home at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, regarded for many years as the ultimate high-security prison. Now their stories are told by the National Archives' **Jake Ersland** in an exploration of Record Group 129, the inmate case files for the Leavenworth penitentiary. Ersland will give an illustrated lecture on **Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m.**, on the history of these valuable research files and the untold stories they contain, many with a Kansas City connection. This program will be held at the Kansas City Central Library, 14 West Tenth Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

To make a reservation for this **free** program visit <https://www.kclibrary.org/rsvp/22158>.



The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 15 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It 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. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ationalarchiveskansascity.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday, Monday, and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs