

January 2014

Dee Harris to Discuss *Beyond the Myths: The Harvey Girls in Fact and Fiction*

On **Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host **Dee Harris**, curator of *Fred Harvey: The Man, the Brand, and the American West*, for a lecture titled *Beyond the Myths: The Harvey Girls in Fact and Fiction*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the lecture.

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. Harris will discuss how a romanticized image of the Harvey Girls grew throughout the 20th century, comparing it with the collective experiences of the thousands of women who worked for Fred Harvey. In addition, Harris will contrast popular images and myths in film, newspapers, and magazines with real life experiences gathered through research and interviews with dozens of former Harvey Girls.

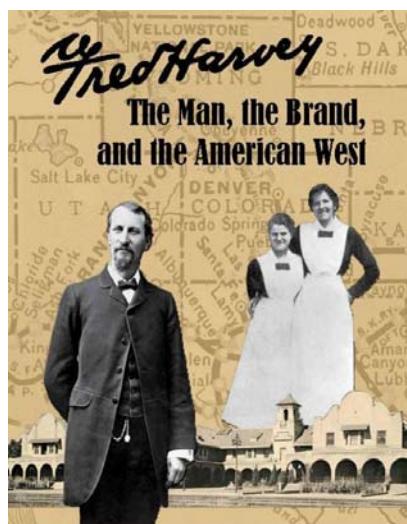
To make a reservation for this **free** program call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.



Above: *The Harvey Girls* movie highlights the lifestyle of the Fred Harvey servers. The film script was evidence in a court case found in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City.

Fred Harvey Exhibit Extended to February 22, 2014

If you have not visited the National Archives to see the exhibit *Fred Harvey: The Man, the Brand, and the American West*, you still have time to drop in! The exhibit dates have been extended, and it will remain open through February 22, 2014.



Fred Harvey was a visionary businessman who changed the nature of railroad meal stops in the 1870s. His string of eating establishments, called Harvey Houses, followed the route of the Santa Fe Railroad. Visitors will see a variety of artifacts and documents that tell the Fred Harvey story, including a desk from Fred Harvey's home, a dining room table and chairs from the Harvey House in Newton, Kansas, and lunch counter stools from the Harvey House in Clovis, New Mexico. Items on display include documents, furniture, menus, silver service, dishware, retail items, photographs, and postcards that illustrate the history of the Fred Harvey company.

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Upcoming Events

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

- JANUARY 8 - 10:00 A.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: RECORDS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THE WAR OF 1812
- JANUARY 14 - 6:30 P.M. LECTURE: BEYOND THE MYTHS: THE HARVEY GIRLS IN FACT AND FICTION
- JANUARY 15 - 10:00 A.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: EXPLORING RESOURCES FOR MID-19TH CENTURY AMERICAN CONFLICTS
- JANUARY 16 - 6:00 P.M. FILM SCREENING: THE INVISIBLE WAR
- JANUARY 22 - 10:00 A.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION AND WORLD WAR I
- JANUARY 28 - 10:00 A.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering an exciting four-part genealogy workshop series every Wednesday, starting on January 8 through January 29 – *Centuries of Service: Exploring Military Records for Genealogy*. Attend all four classes to receive a certificate of completion. The workshops will be held from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the National Archives at Kansas City, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Centuries of Service: Exploring Military Records for Genealogy Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, January 8 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Fighting the Red Coats: Records from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812

The young republic spent eleven years battling the British in two wars between the years 1775-1815. During these conflicts and the tense period between the formal wars, young soldiers stepped up and answered the call to protect the new nation. Discover the variety of records documenting your ancestors' military experience, and ways to access them.

Wednesday, January 15 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Growing Pains: Exploring Resources for Mid-19th Century American Conflicts

Following the War of 1812, the United States endured a period of rapid expansion and upheaval. Conflicts exploded first with Native American tribes in the southeast, then with Mexico, and finally as the nation split in two during the Civil War. This class examines military records created during the mid-19th Century, from service records and pension files, to more detailed records on units in combat, as well as instructions on how to access these records.

Wednesday, January 22 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Turn of the Century Conflicts: Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I

At the end of the 19th and into the 20th century, the battlefields moved from the continental United States to international soil. Beginning with the Spanish-American War, leading to the Philippine Insurrection, and culminating in World War I, our ancestors left the United States to serve American causes abroad. Learn about the records that tell these stories.



Above original caption: *Somewhere in England, Maj. Charity E. Adams,...and Capt. Abbie N. Campbell,...inspect the first contingent of Negro members of the Women's Army Corps assigned to overseas service. Record Group 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 1860 - 1985, Signal Corps Photographs of American Military Activity, 1754 - 1954.*

Wednesday, January 29 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

A World Torn Apart: World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War

Though these wars were international in scope, the United States military created records during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War that provide insight into the units and individuals who served. This class explores how to order service records, identify online resources, and understand privacy restrictions.

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

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? Exhibit to Open January 7, 2014

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam?: The Government's Effect on the American Diet is the newest exhibit to open at the National Archives at Kansas City on January 7, 2014. This exhibition of records from the holdings of the National Archives traces how food has occupied the hearts and minds of Americans and their government.



Unearth the stories and personalities behind the increasingly complex programs and legislation that affect what we eat. Learn about the Federal government's extraordinary efforts, successes, and failures to change our eating habits. From Revolutionary War rations to Cold War cultural exchanges, these documents and images reflect many of our current concerns about food safety and nutrition. Food-related holdings of the National Archives are surprisingly yet tastefully presented in this exploration of the government's role in the American approach to food.

The government's efforts to inspire, influence, and control what Americans eat have led to unexpected consequences, dismal failures, and life-saving successes. Records in the National Archives trace the origins of the programs and legislation aimed at ensuring that the American food supply is ample, safe, and nutritious. The records also reflect the effects the government has had on our food choices and preferences. At turns comic (blindfolded turkey tasting experiments) and tragic (lab notes on toxic candy), these records reveal the evolution of our beliefs and feelings about food. They convey the desperate voices of Depression-era farmers, and explain how the government got into the business of publishing recipes for ham shortcake and teaching housewives to can peaches.

Instead of a traditional chronological approach, the exhibition explores four broad themes: **Farm**, **Factory**,

Kitchen, and Table.

Farm - Government has had a profound effect on the way farms are run and what they produce. The Department of Agriculture scoured the globe for new plant varieties, researched hybrid crops, distributed seeds to farmers, and controlled the prices of farm commodities. Learn how programs and legislation transformed agriculture in America.

Factory - Government's attempts to ensure the safety of an industrialized food supply have changed the nature of foods, production methods, labeling, and advertising. Public outcry over swill milk, rancid meat, and substandard tea led to the establishment of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the FDA. Food producers quickly capitalized on new regulations, touting their products as "pure," "enriched," and "unadulterated." See how the government embraced advances in food technologies, performed research on food production, and secured patents for some of their methods.

Kitchen - As scientists made discoveries about nutrition, the government sought to change the eating habits of Americans. Most efforts aimed to reform the homemaker through nutrition education and cooking classes.

Table - Although many of its overt attempts to change our diets were unsuccessful, the government did succeed in changing and homogenizing American tastes in other ways. Meals served to soldiers and school children instilled food habits and preferences that persist today. The diets and entertaining style of the Presidents and First Ladies were also influential, as many Americans wrote the White House for recipes and incorporated Presidential favorites into their family meals.

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? offers visitors the chance to examine letters, diaries, photos, maps, petitions, films, patents, and proclamations from the food-related collection of the National Archives.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Uncovering Historical Documents Online

Over the past the year the National Archives at Kansas City has made a concerted effort to digitize more of its holdings and make these resources available online. Among the initial records that have been digitized include documents relating to important individuals and events of American history such as Dred Scott, Standing Bear, Walt Disney, and *Brown v. Board of Education*.

This month we feature a Q&A with Archives Director Lori Cox-Paul, who will discuss these digitization efforts.

Q: What types of materials are receiving this attention?

LC-P: Our initial focus has been to digitize our most famous and frequently requested records. For example, over the past few years we have received dozens of requests for copies of the bankruptcy file for Walt Disney's first film company, Laugh-O-Gram Films. I have personally copied this case numerous times. It doesn't make sense to use staff resources for such repetitive and potentially destructive tasks. So now we have all 510 pages of the case online for anyone to view and print off themselves. Another good example is the famous civil rights court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. While we don't have every single document of this huge case online, we do have those that researchers most often request.

Q: What about records that relate to genealogy?

LC-P: This is also an area of emphasis for us. We have targeted certain series of records that will be of great interest to genealogists from the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. We are still finalizing many of these images, so they will be coming online sometime during 2014.

Q: Who does the actual act of digitization?

LC-P: We use a combination of permanent staff, paid students, and unpaid interns to do this work. For the first time this past summer we had one intern who worked only on digitization projects during his time with us.

Q: What about outside workers?

LC-P: We have recently had great success in using Citizen Archivists to carry out digitization projects for us. During our recent Citizen Archivist event in December, members of the general public digitized 2,300 documents. Other outside sources are organizations for which the National Archives has formal partnership agreements. For example, in the past Ancestry.com digitized one of our naturalization indexes, now available on their website. Currently we have two volunteers from Family Search who are in the research room every day digitizing land records. This will be a multi-year project.

Q: What about researchers who digitize records while in the research room?

LC-P: We do work with researchers much more closely now than in the past. When we notice that their research involves the scanning of large amounts of records from a single record group or series of records, we often ask if we may share their copies. For example, in 2013 a researcher scanned every photograph from the Sisseton Indian Agency; he kindly provided us with a copy, and we soon hope to have those online.

Q: How is this work actually done?

LC-P: Depending upon the document – its size and condition – we either use flat-bed scanners or digital cameras. Whatever captures the best image that also protects the document.

Q: What happens to the original records once they have been digitized? Are they thrown away?

LC-P: Oh, heavens no! We will always maintain the original documents even after they have been digitized. It is our responsibility to maintain and preserve the original document forever. However, once records have been digitized, we try not to provide the original document to researchers to minimize the handling of them which aids in their preservation.

Q: How long before it goes on-line?

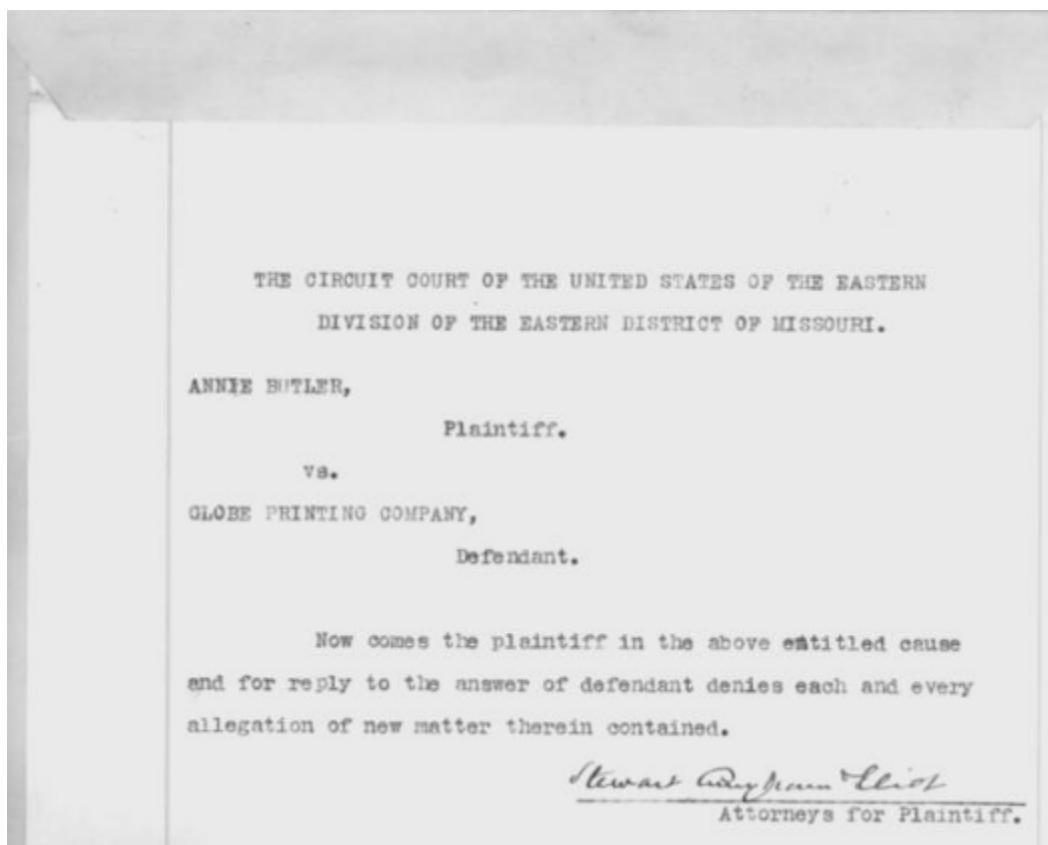
LC-P: It takes several months between the time we digitize an item locally and it appears online on the National Archives catalog. The reason for the time lag is that all locations of the National Archives are submitting images to one office at our College Park, Maryland, location, and they have limited staff to handle this large amount of material.

Q: How can one find these records?

LC-P: The National Archives has an online catalog called “Online Public Access” (OPA). Here researchers are able to search holdings from all locations of the National Archives. That includes Archives I in Washington, D.C., Archives II in College Park, Maryland, the 13 field branches, and the presidential libraries. Researchers who locate digital images can download and print them out for free. For those documents digitized by our partners, researchers will find those on their respective websites – which the general public can access for free in the research room.

Q: So does this mean that everything in the National Archives will eventually be digitized and available on-line?

LC-P: The reality is that the National Archives has more than 12 billion documents – and that number continues to grow annually. However, the amount of important historical documents that is currently available online and will be coming online in the immediate future is impressive in its own right. We at the National Archives at Kansas City are grateful for the progress that continues to be made with our local digitization efforts. We will keep readers of our newsletter updated in the coming months as we add more documents online.



Above: A digitized document from a libel lawsuit filed by Annie Butler, a.k.a. Annie Oakley, against the Globe Printing Company. Oakley spent several years suing over 50 publications that ran an incorrect story alleging cocaine usage by Oakley. She won 54 of 55 lawsuits. Record Group 21, Records of District Courts of the United States, Law, Equity, and Criminal Case Files, 1828 - 1912, Annie Butler v. Globe Publishing Company, 1904, NAID 7430889.

Q: What are some of the documents you recommend people look at?

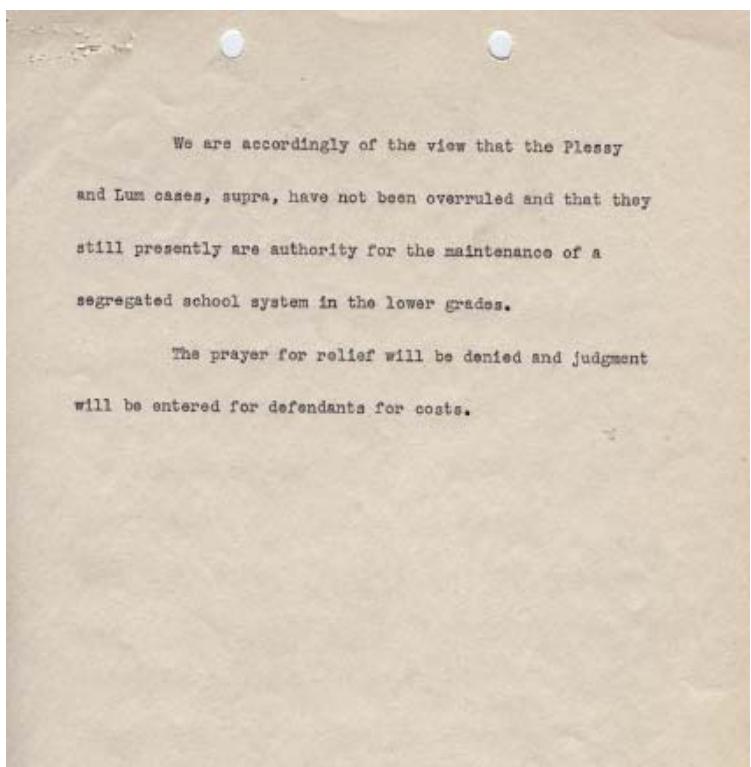
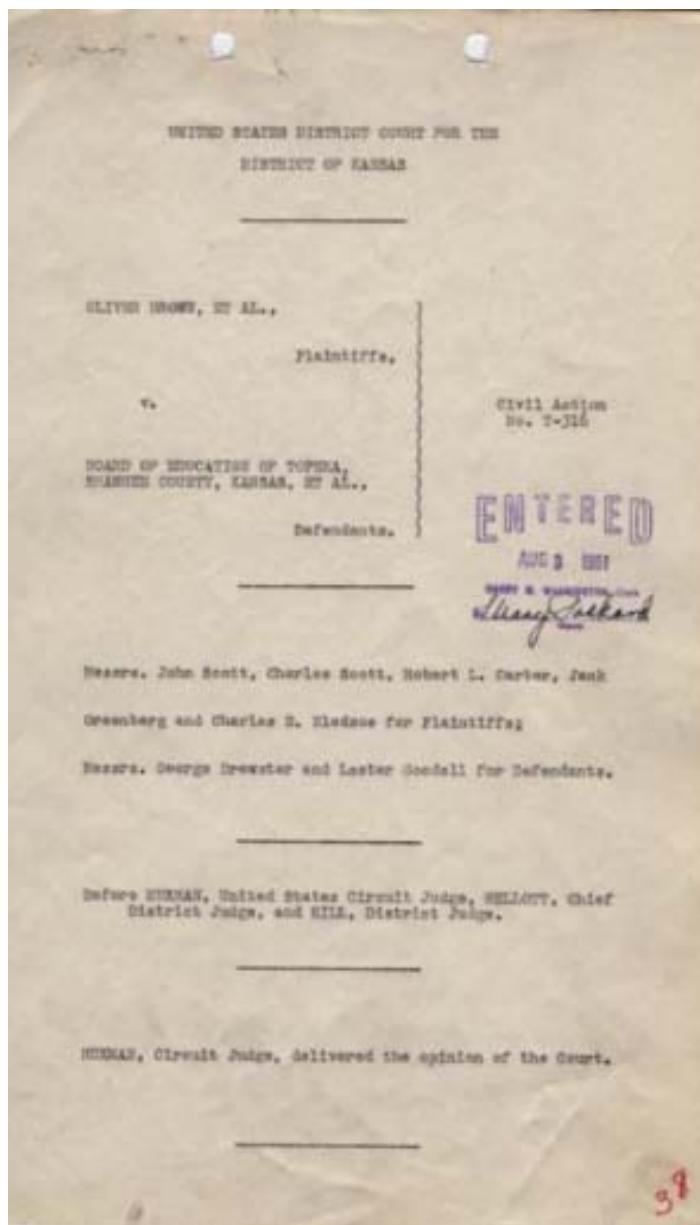
LC-P: Here are some of the items we have put online recently. Check them out and let us know what you think. Just go to www.archives.gov/research/search/ and in the search box enter the National Archives Identifier number -- just the number -- and it will take you to the document(s).

- Multiple documents relating to *Dred Scott v. John F. A. Sandford*, National Archives Identifiers: 7077511, 7077499, 7077501, 7077507, 7077500, 7077503, and 7077508.
- View court records from St. Louis regarding Fugitive Slave Claims from 1850, National Archives Identifier: 7259874.
- See two important early lower court cases that were compiled as part of the Civil Rights Cases of 1883 heard by the U.S. Supreme Court -- *U.S. v. Samuel Nichols*, National Archives Identifier: 7403548 and *U.S. v. Murray Stanley*, National Archives Identifier: 7403549.
- View the original complaint and opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*, National Archives Identifiers: 6997520 and 2641494.
- Two civil rights court cases relating to Kansas City's famed Lucile Bluford, editor of the *Kansas City Call*, National Archives Identifiers: 7403550 and 7403551.

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- The important Native American rights case, *Standing Bear v. George Crook*, National Archives Identifier: 7403552.
- A less well-known case involving Native American voting rights, *John Elk v. Charles Wilkins*, National Archives Identifier: 7403553.
- *In the Matter of Laugh-O-Gram Films* (Walt Disney's first film company bankruptcy file), National Archives Identifier: 6997521.
- Famed Wild West Show performer Annie Oakley was involved in a Federal court case in 1904. View *Annie Butler* (her married name) v. *Globe Publishing Company*, National Archives Identifier: 7430889.
- Look at a court case involving musician Chuck Berry, *U.S. v. Charles Edward Anderson Berry*, National Archives Identifier: 7403547.
- For a few more genealogy-related series, check out the Alien Application Permits, 1917-1918, from Kansas, National Archives Identifier: 5917758. Also investigate Alien Personal History and Statement Forms from Iowa, National Archives Identifier: 2629629.

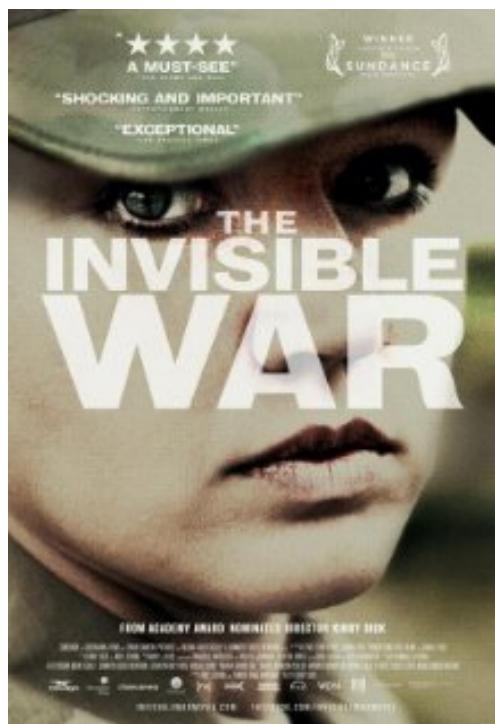
For more information about records found at the National Archives at Kansas City visit the web site www.archives.gov/kansas-city or call 816-268-8000.



Left and above: Digitized opinion documents from the lower court filings in the landmark civil rights case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. The three-judge panel that heard the Brown case referenced *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the 1896 Supreme Court decision that advanced the "separate but equal" doctrine, allowing for segregation if equal facilities were offered to blacks and whites. The Brown case was further appealed and was consolidated with similar lawsuits challenging school segregation. The consolidated cases were tried in 1954 before the United States Supreme Court. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, Civil Case Files, 1938-1977, *Oliver Brown et al v. Board of Education of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas et al*, Opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 08/31/1951, NAID 2641494.

The Invisible War Film Screening and Discussion

On **Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City, in partnership with the American Association of University Women, will host a screening and discussion of the film, *The Invisible War*. A 5:30 p.m. reception will precede the screening.



The Invisible War is an Academy Award© nominated documentary that recounts the experiences of veterans who have been sexually assaulted while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The film features interviews with the veterans who tell their stories surrounding their assaults. Their stories show many common themes, such as the lack of recourse to an impartial justice system, reprisals against survivors instead of against perpetrators, the absence of adequate emotional and physical care for survivors, the unhindered advancement of perpetrators' careers, and the forced expulsion of survivors from service.

Interspersed with first person testimonies are interviews with advocates, journalists, mental health professionals, active duty and retired generals, Department of Defense officials, and members of the military justice system. The film also includes footage, often shot by the veterans themselves, which documents their lives and continuing struggles in the aftermath of their assaults. The survivors and advocates featured in the film call for changes to the way the military handles sexual assault, including shifting prosecution away from unit commanders.

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

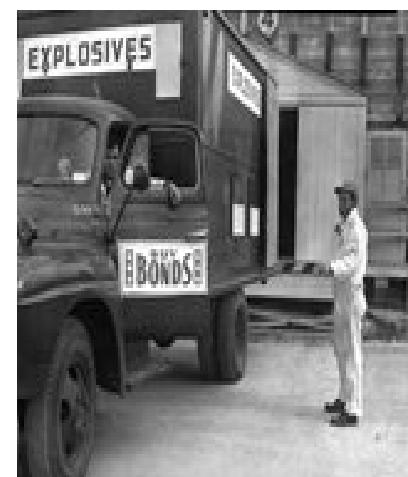
Following the screening local speakers will answer questions related to the film topic. Guest speakers include, **Sandra Reddish**, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant who worked on sexual assault cases in the Marine Corps legal department; and **Keith Bradley**, Prevention Services Coordinator at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA).

Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie Exhibit at the Johnson County Museum

Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie is an exhibit that focuses on the Sunflower Ordnance Works, later known as the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, located near present day De Soto, Kansas. The exhibit opened in September 2013 and was curated by the Johnson County Museum. Records from the National Archives at Kansas City and Johnson County Museum are featured. The exhibit focuses on the workers and artifacts from the one-time world's largest smokeless powder explosives plant. The following lectures will be presented in partnership between the National Archives and the Johnson County Museum.

- **Women on the Home Front on Saturday, January 18** at 1:00 p.m. - presented by **Mickey Ebert**, education specialist at the National Archives. Ebert will discuss the role women played on the home front during World War II. This lecture will be given at the Johnson County Museum, 6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, Kansas.
- **World War II Records at the National Archives on Saturday, April 19** at 10:00 a.m. - presented by **Jake Ersland**, archivist at the National Archives. Ersland will highlight records found in the Archives that were created during war time. In addition, Ersland will offer tips on how to research military records and other war-related information. This lecture will be given at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

For more information about the *Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie* exhibit visit www.jocomuseum.org.



Above: Sunflower Ordnance Plant workers loading ammunition trucks. Image courtesy of the Johnson County Museum.

Doing a December Double Take: Kansas City Hosts Two Back-to-Back Citizen Archivist Events

For the winter 2013 installment of the Citizen Archivist Program, we were joined by seven members of our local community for two days of archival projects. These half day events focused on digitization, data entry, and holdings maintenance projects from a variety of record groups: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Selective Service System, U.S. District Courts, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.



Collectively, the participants digitized 2300 images, created 109 index entries, and completed five cubic feet of holdings maintenance. The participants walked away with a new understanding of the archival process and a sense of accomplishment. Keep your eye out for additional citizen archivist opportunities in 2014!



Above right, above, and right: Members of the community work in the research room to digitize records found in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City as a part of the winter Citizen Archivist event.



Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City electronic mail list?

If we don't have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred email address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



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 and weather.