

May 2014

Jocelyn Ball-Edson to Discuss Preserving Historic Monuments and Fountains in Kansas City During National Preservation Month

On **Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host **Jocelyn Ball-Edson** for a discussion titled *Preserving Historic Monuments and Fountains in Kansas City*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the program.

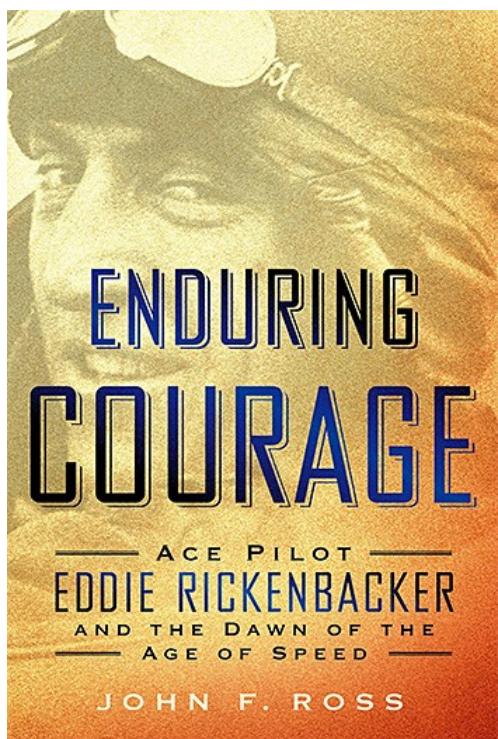
Ball-Edson will discuss the wide range of issues and challenges encountered in maintaining and preserving a collection of nearly 50 public fountains and over 100 other monuments, sculptures, and ornamental structures. Topics include vandalism, weather and environment, budgets, age, and public perception, illustrated with photographs of the inner workings of pump vaults and mechanical rooms, as well as details of structures and sculptures. This program is presented in recognition of National Preservation Month (May) and is offered in partnership with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department.

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



John F. Ross to Discuss *Enduring Courage: Ace Pilot Eddie Rickenbacker and the Dawn of the Age of Speed*

On **Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host **John F. Ross** for a discussion and signing of his new book *Enduring Courage: Ace Pilot Eddie Rickenbacker and the Dawn of the Age of Speed*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the program.



Enduring Courage chronicles the extraordinary life of Eddie Rickenbacker, a largely forgotten American hero of the highest caliber. Born to poor German immigrants, Rickenbacker rose from nothing to become first a famous racecar driver, then the ace of ace pilots during WWI, and later a successful businessman as CEO of Eastern Air Lines. Truly a man who lived nine lives, he evaded death dozens of times and miraculously survived two plane crashes - including one on a secret mission in the Pacific during WWII, which left him and others adrift on rafts for three weeks (*a la* Louis Zamperini). Rickenbacker's life is a mesmerizing tale of an American legend.

Copies of *Enduring Courage* will be available for purchase after the program from **Rainy Day Books**. 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

- **MAY 2 - 10:00 A.M.**
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
ARCHIVAL RESEARCH 101
- **MAY 6 - 6:30 P.M.**
LECTURE: PRESERVING
HISTORIC MONUMENTS
AND FOUNTAINS IN
KANSAS CITY
- **MAY 13 - 6:30 P.M.**
LECTURE: MAIN STREET
AMERICA AND THE COLD
WAR
- **MAY 14 - 1:00 P.M.**
GENEALOGY WEBINAR:
ALIEN ANCESTORS
DURING TIMES OF WAR
- **MAY 16 - 10:00 A.M.**
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
GOOGLING YOUR
GENEALOGY
- **MAY 22 - 6:30 P.M.**
AUTHOR EVENT:
ENDURING COURAGE BY
JOHN F. ROSS

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives will be offering two free genealogy workshops in May. The workshops will be held at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Workshop Descriptions:

Archival Research 101

Friday, May 2 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Genealogy research involves utilizing resources available at multiple archival institutions.

However, very few people have had interactions with archives. Do you know the differences between researching at a library and an archive? Do you know the best time of day to visit an archive? Do you know how to interact with archivists to get the information you are seeking? If you are unable to visit an archive in person, do you know how to write a request for records? This workshop will focus on how to interact with archival institutions in order to have a successful visit in person or through email, phone, or mail correspondence. This is a research methodology course.

Googling your Genealogy

Friday, May 16 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Searching the internet can be a powerful tool.

Many historical documents and resources are found online, but one of the biggest challenges is knowing how and where to start looking for them. Learn to harness the power of the internet through the use of simple tools and tricks. This is a research methodology course. Patrons are encouraged to bring a Wi-Fi enabled device to practice these skills during class.

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

Genealogy Webinar Workshops Now Offered at the Archives

The Archives is pleased to announce free online interactive webinars. 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 will take place from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Daylight Time. Below is a list of upcoming webinars. **Reservations are required** for these **free webinars**, call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

May 14 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. - Alien Ancestors during Times of War

The Federal government created documentation of aliens, immigrants living in the United States who were not naturalized, during times of war in the 19th and 20th century. Come learn about some of the applications, files, and lists used by a variety of Federal agencies during the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. This course will introduce underutilized records, highlight some of the most popular, and offer instructions for completing successful requests.

June 11 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. - Order in the Court: Finding Your Family in Federal Court Records

Did your ancestor file for bankruptcy? Get tied up in a Federal civil suit? Were they a defendant in a criminal case? Federal court documents help to provide a snapshot of an individual or family at a particular juncture in life.

Depending upon the type of case, documents can include lists of property, family members, testimony, and other insightful glimpses at events that may not be documented elsewhere. Come learn about the types of cases you can find at the National Archives and how to begin your research.



Above: Workers unloading Veteran's Bureau Records, June 3, 1936, Historic Photograph File of National Archives Events and Personnel, Record Group 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration, 1789 - ca. 2007. NAID 7820631

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 continues through August 23, 2014 and was developed 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 and will take place at the National Archives.



Above: Group of employees at the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, taken January 1953. Image courtesy of the Johnson County Museum.

Main Street America and the Cold War on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. - presented by Dr. Janet Valentine of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. When we think of the Cold War, we typically think of the containment policy or the arms race. If we think of the Cold War on Main Street, we imagine poodle skirts and sock hops, a la *Happy Days*. In fact, the Main Street experience of the Cold War is largely a result of the

effects of government policy on the popular imagination. Dr. Valentine's talk will explore the ways that government actions influenced everyday life in America during the 1950s and 1960s. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the program which will be held at the National Archives.

To make a reservation for this **free program**, call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. For more information about the *Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie* exhibit, hosted at the Johnson County Museum in Shawnee, Kansas, visit www.jocomuseum.org.

Docents Needed for Upcoming Exhibition

State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda, a traveling exhibition produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, presented by the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and hosted by the National Archives at Kansas City, will be on display from June 24 – October 25, 2014 at the National Archives at Kansas City. This exhibition utilizes a variety of primary sources and artifacts to examine how the Nazis used propaganda to win broad voter support in Germany's young democracy after World War I, implement radical programs under the party's dictatorship in the 1930s, and justify war and mass murder.

The National Archives is looking for some dynamic individuals who would like to work with students and adults in our group tour program. Docents must be at least 18 years of age, able to attend one of two mandatory daytime training sessions on either June 18 or June 19, 2014. If you are interested in being a part of this experience, please email mickey.ebert@nara.gov for questions or visit <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/volunteer.html#volunteer> and fill out the volunteer/docent application.



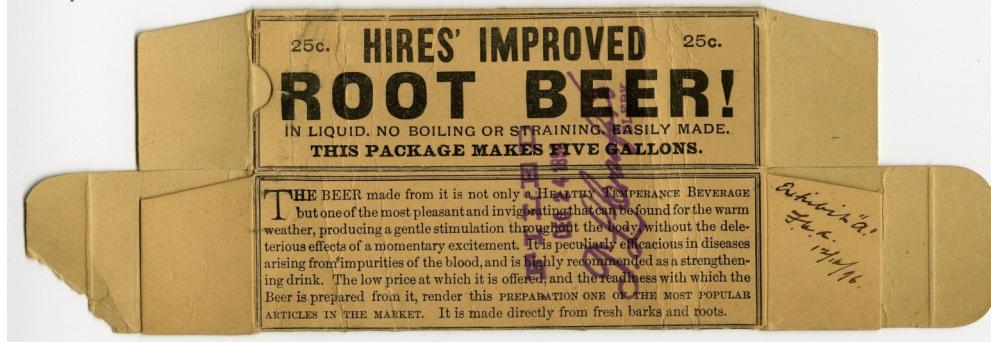
*Honoring the Past
Protecting the Future*®

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? Exhibition

The Pure Food and Drug Act

Why was the **Pure Food and Drug Act** of 1906 so important? It was the first Federal law to regulate the food and drug production industries, resulting in Federal inspection and consumer protection. Prior to the act, food purveyors

were allowed to produce food in unsanitary conditions using poor quality ingredients and toxic chemicals. Patent medicines containing opium, morphine, heroin, and cocaine were sold without restrictions. Other manufacturers made unsubstantiated health-related claims about their products to boost sales.



Above: Hires' Improved Root Beer product box claiming the product is "particularly efficacious in diseases arising from impurities of the blood," Charles E. Hires v. O.W. Heyer, December 16, 1896. U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, Law, Equity, and Criminal Case Files, 1828-1912, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

He introduced this new beverage at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876 by giving away free glasses of root beer.

By 1884, Hires was manufacturing root beer extract and syrup for soda fountains, and bottling root beer for commercial sale. Known for aggressive marketing tactics, Hires often used children in promotional materials to target advertising campaigns at mothers and young children. The company also promoted Hires' Root Beer as a healthy temperance beverage that would help cure "diseases arising from impurities of the blood."

The **Pure Food and Drug Act** of 1906 helped regulate these types of claims and statements, making sure individuals could purchase safe foods and trust that health claims were truthful. Visitors can learn more about the **Pure Food and Drug Act** and see additional records relating to food production 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.

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam?: The Government's Effect on the American Diet is a free exhibit and can be viewed Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Right: Hires' Improved Root Beer advertisement marketing their product to children and mothers, Charles E. Hires v. O.W. Heyer, 1892. U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, Law, Equity, and Criminal Case Files, 1828-1912, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

More Than Just Soil

On the surface, records pertaining to soil conservation probably do not seem useful or even interesting to researchers outside of environmental history. Quite the contrary, to researchers seeking the history of a particular locality between the mid 1930s through the early 1940s, these records document the process by which the Federal government worked in cooperation with local agencies and farmers to provide education, instruction, and financial assistance in new methods of sustainable agricultural. This often included developing experimental farms and cooperative agreements with farmers, as well as providing advice about specific types of soil and the best growing practices for individual geographic areas.

Prior to undertaking a project in a community, planning reports profiled the location. Local farmers joined with government officials from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to form a Land Use Planning Committee. While the reports vary in content, most contain information on the community's history as well as an overview of the potential issues that negatively impact agriculture and community life. Statistics pertaining to the environment such as

VI. THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

Farm land values are estimated to average around \$50.00 per acre. The mortgage indebtedness is probably 50% of the land value on the average. While there has been a wide use of Federal Land Bank credit most farm loans are still from private sources.

Opportunity for credit is obtained almost entirely from local banks at 8%. Only thirty-two farmers availed themselves of Production Credit Association loans in 1939. Farm income is estimated to average \$1,000 per acre. Income comes from livestock, 25% from crops, and 10% from other sources. Expenses are for interest, farm machinery, taxes and insurance. Taxes are around 70 cents per acre.

VII. FARM LIVING CONDITIONS

Farm living conditions, while probably not up to the standards of the period, are generally satisfactory to the farm population above the average for the state. However, a detailed analysis of farm living standards and home conditions shows that many items essential to a farm living environment are lacking.

While the supply of water is considered adequate by 90% of the farmers, about 10% have complete pressure water system and 10% have pitcher pumps or running water at the house. Over one-half of the farm homes where all water is supplied comes from wells.

Over 75% of the homes are in need of painting or repainting. Living space is considered adequate in 90% of the homes. Fences and shrubbery are found on three-fourth of the farms. Most are fully fenced or otherwise protected from livestock.

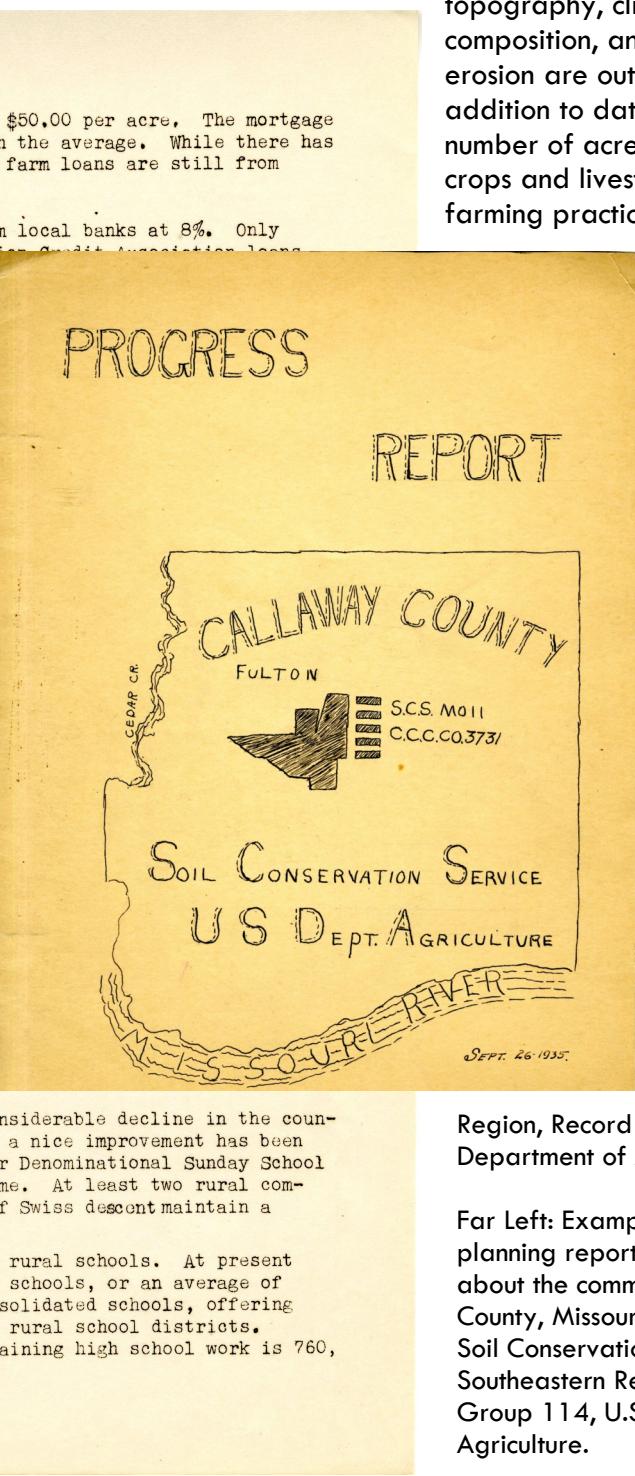
With over 250 miles of recently constructed Rural Roads, some areas adjacent to urban centers served by paved roads, the farm homes have electricity available and about 90% have it. Nearly all of these are using electric washing machines, 50% use electric refrigerators. About 15% of all have electric refrigeration in the summer and from 90% to 95% in the winter. Almost three-fourth of the homes have some type of kerosene lamp and 50% of these use electricity for lighting.

Over 90% of all farm children attend high school and are enrolled in 4-H Club work. A detailed analysis appears in table VIII of the appendix.

VIII. COMMUNITY WELFARE AND ACTIVITIES

During the past twenty years there has been a considerable decline in the country church. During the past few years, however, a nice improvement has been shown. Most communities now have either Union or Denominational Sunday School services. Church services are held regularly and preaching service at least half time. At least two rural communities where the population is predominantly of Swiss descent maintain a regular full time pastor.

There has been a steady decline in the number of rural schools. At present 911 children are enrolled in 58 rural elementary schools, or an average of 15.7 per school. Six high schools and three consolidated schools, offering full high school courses, include some 20 former rural school districts. Elementary school enrollments in districts maintaining high school work is 760, and high school enrollment is 648.



topography, climate, soil composition, and degree of erosion are outlined, in addition to data on the number of acres and types of crops and livestock. Current farming practices, types of equipment, and precise numbers of animals are listed, as well as conditions affecting livestock and production. (continued on next page)

Left: Cover of a Progress Report. Emergency Conservation Camp Reports, 1935-1936. Callaway County, Missouri State Office, Soil Conservation Service, Southeastern Region, Record Group 114, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Far Left: Example of a land use planning report with detail about the community. Andrew County, Missouri State Office, Soil Conservation Service, Southeastern Region, Record Group 114, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Every facet of farming was investigated. Often, government officials concluded that lack of education about the best agricultural practices and modernity in rural areas was to blame for poor crops and livestock conditions.

Besides gathering information on the community in terms of agricultural needs, the SCS examined other aspects of life that could adversely affect agricultural conditions. Paragraphs detail ethnic makeup, tax liability, labor costs, and percentage of homes under mortgage. SCS observers commented on available roads and conditions, as well as methods of conveying goods to markets. In Greene County, Missouri, the March 1941 planning report notes that less than twenty-five percent of homes were equipped with telephones. Information on newspaper and magazine subscriptions is even accounted for in some reports. Many homes still lacked electricity, water, and heat. Recreational facilities were sometimes nonexistent or far behind larger communities. SCS staff noted that some agricultural problems contributed to an absence of social organization in a community. Lacking modern amenities, children left for cities, social institutions like schools and churches began to weaken, and in some cases, government workers placed blame on the lack of leadership stemming from ideological differences in various factions. In some reports these same issues were attributed to automobiles and increasing urbanization. The reports generally conclude with a list of problems necessary to address in order to remedy the situation on a community-wide level.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided labor for many of the projects. A combination of civilian and military personnel established and operated the camps. While many seek CCC records for genealogical purposes, the greater value in the SCS records as a whole is in the profiles they provide of communities. Occasionally, camp reports include information on individuals, such as photos and brief resumes of camp management. Brief reports on camp life for young men serving in the CCC were made, including details about athletics and educational opportunities. SCS-MO-9 (located in Blue Springs, Missouri), the camp report indicates that many camp workers from other areas moved their family and became integrated into life in the larger community through Veterans of Foreign Wars, church, and extracurricular activities. This is important, as being well received and fostering cooperation in the communities was necessary in order to accomplish the work and goals of the agency. Communities embraced the camps and workers. The President of the Paris Progressive Club of Paris, Missouri, wrote a letter to the Superintendant of SCS-MO-12 offering sincere gratitude, highlighting the project's benefit to the community, including "the opportunity for enrollees to earn a living and help needy dependants" while "making new friends...and improving their minds by taking advantage of opportunities provided..." In closing he reaffirms the Club's willingness to cooperate in whatever way possible on future projects. One local resident summed up her appreciation for their help with "soil erosion, conservation of bird life, and in beautifying unsightly places." Another commented that "we consider the CCC camp an asset to our town...that so many boys could be suddenly added to a community without friction speaks well for the boys and their leaders."

Additionally, details about specific projects, problems encountered, and photos of work along the way are present. These reports are portraits of rural communities as they existed, just decades before suburban sprawl transformed many of the farms and pastures into housing communities and neighborhoods of today. For more information about Soil Conservation Service records contact the National Archives at Kansas City at kansascity.archives@nara.gov.



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. 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.



Above: Beginning double-drop dam on Strode(s) outlet. Narrative Report of S.C.S.-Mo-9 at Blue Springs, for 6th Enrollment Period, Oct. 1, 1935-March 31, 1936. Callaway County, Missouri State Office, Soil Conservation Service, Southeastern Region, Record Group 114, U.S. Department of Agriculture.