

Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives to open July 2

Opening July 2, *Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives* chronicles major events of the twentieth century -- immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, the



Wright Brothers' first flight, construction of the Empire State Building, Depression-era soup lines, Omaha Beach, the mushroom cloud, Lyndon Johnson taking the Presidential oath, U.S. Marines in Da Nang, and footprints on the moon. Some of these images are so famous that they are seared in our collective memory and have become synonymous with the events themselves. Other photographs offer us surprise historical glimpses from the past, and still others chronicle the changing technological landscape over the century.

Drawn from the National Archives and Records

Administration vast archives of more than 8 million images, *Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives* features color and black and white photographs celebrating 100 years of American life.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically and depicts many of the momentous events of the century, as well as larger social trends. Also showcased in the exhibition are six portfolios of noted photographers, well - represented in the holdings of the National Archives. Among their works are images so famous that they are permanently etched in our minds, while other images are little known. Included are the portfolios of: Lewis Wicks Hine; George Ackerman; Walter Lubken; Dorothea Lange; Charles Fenno Jacobs; and Danny Lyon.



Pictured above left: 1913 – Trying out the new assembly line. Pictured center: A young civil rights demonstrator at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Pictured bottom left: Three boys and ‘A Train’ graffiti in Brooklyn’s Lynch Park in New York City. The inner city today is an absolute contradiction to the main stream America of gas stations, expressways, and tract homes. It is populated by Blacks, Latins, and the white poor. Most of all the inner city environment is human beings as beautiful and threatened as the 19th century buildings.



Additional Information

The exhibition will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City, July 2 – December 31, 2011. To schedule a group tour, call Mickey Ebert at 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

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Upcoming Events

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

- JULY 2 - 9:00 A.M.
EXHIBITION OPENING:
PICTURE THIS!: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
- JULY 5 - 6:00 P.M.
LEE AND GRANT SPEAKER SERIES LECTURE:
GREGORY HOSPODER,
ULYSSES S. GRANT
BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR
- JULY 12 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY
- JULY 16 - 11:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
BORDERLAND FAMILIES ALWAYS ON THE EDGE

Gems for Genealogists

The following **free** genealogical workshops will be offered at the National Archives at Kansas City. To make a reservation or for more information call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov

Tuesday, July 12 --10:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Introduction to Genealogy

Unsure where or how to begin researching your family history at the National Archives? Join Archives staff as they present how to navigate the United States Federal Census on Ancestry.com. The class will be taught using the computers in the genealogy research room at the National Archives. Class size is limited; **reservations are required**. Participants are invited to stay after class and start their research.

Saturday, July 16 --11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Borderland Families Always on the Edge

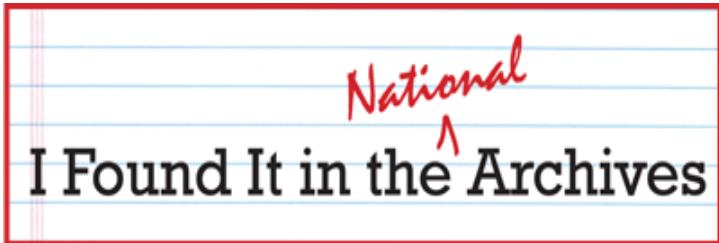
Presented by Rose Ann Findlen, this workshop will provide a personal glimpse into life in Kansas and Missouri during the Civil War. *Borderland Families Always on the Edge* documents carefully researched genealogies which Findlen brings back to life through the tales of guerrilla warfare and martial law that swept the plains in the 1850s and 1860s. Through her focus on the Lykins, Peery, and Heiskell families, Findlen personalizes the political and social climate that affected every family living in the Kansas-Missouri borderland. Findlen will be available to sign copies of her book after the discussion. This event is presented in partnership with the Jackson County Historical Society.

Friday, August 5 -- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Introduction to Naturalization Records

Naturalization is the process by which an alien becomes an American citizen. These records can provide valuable information: a person's birth date and location, occupation, immigration year, marital status and spouse information, witnesses' names and addresses, and more. Participants will learn about the different steps in the process, how to locate these records, and helpful hints.

News and Notes

- **I Found it in the Archives** --The National Archives wants to hear what you've discovered in the Archives that has made a difference in your personal or professional life! Share your story with us during our "I Found it in the National Archives" contest and you could win a prize. Record the story of your quest for information, what made it important, and how you achieved success at the National Archives in the form of a 400-word essay or a video no longer than two minutes. Contest dates run from June 9 - August 9, 2011. For more information including rules and entry details, go to www.archives.gov/contest/found-it.html



- **Upcoming Midwest Family History Expo in July** -- Midwest Family History Expo will be held July 29-30, 2011, at the Overland Park Convention center in Overland Park, KS. Learn about aspects of researching your family history from expert speakers, including staff from the National Archives at Kansas City. National Archives topics include:
 - *Using Records of the U.S. District Courts to Find Your Family History*, presented at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29;
 - *Alien Files for Genealogical Research*, presented at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29;
 - *Introduction to the National Archives Online Public Access (OPA)*, presented at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 30;
 - *Practical Preservation for Priceless Family Treasures*, presented at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

Plan to visit the exhibit hall, it is free and open to the public, and learn the latest in genealogical technology trends. Vendors include the National Archives, the Jackson County Genealogy Society, and RootsMagic. All will be available to answer your genealogy questions! For more information, or to register, go to www.familyhistoryexpos.com



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

An Inventory of Assets: The 1940 Alien Registration Form

Attorney General Robert Jackson said during a 1940 radio PSA that “a year-end inventory of assets is a customary procedure of sound business.” This was the approach with which the United States went about completing an “inventory” of all aliens living within the U.S. during a four month period ending in December of 1940. Jackson continued by saying, “they are not American citizens but, with relatively few exceptions, these foreign-born among us are American assets—precious human assets. At this critical period of our history an accounting of our assets is more than just sound practice; it is absolutely essential to our national defense.”

The Alien Registration Act of 1940 required that each alien living within U.S. borders go to their local post office and register their alien status with the government. The registration process included a questionnaire form and a requirement that fingerprints be taken at the time of registration (certain exclusions applied for diplomats, employees of foreign governments, and children under the age of 14).

The Alien Registration Form contained fifteen questions including when and where the subject was born, when and where they entered the United States, a physical description, and inquiries about employment, organization memberships, prior military service, and attempts to obtain naturalization in the U.S. As Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) received the forms, an Alien Registration Number was assigned (ex. A12 345 678) and an Alien Registration Receipt Card containing this number was mailed to each registrant as proof of alien status.



Promotion of the Alien Registration Act primarily came through a series of radio PSAs given by various government officials that cited participation in registration as supporting democracy and called on Americans to aid their alien neighbors in completing the registration process. A number of officials of foreign descent spoke to audiences of specific nationalities in their native tongue (i.e. German, Italian, Polish, etc.) in order to ease fears about the registration restricting or violating an alien’s rights. To bolster support newspapers across the country captured numerous photographs of actors and musicians completing various components of the registration process.



Government officials expected a few million registrations to occur, but final counts saw over five million registration forms submitted.

Beginning in April 1944 many of the Alien Registration Forms found a home in a new series of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) files, the Alien Files (A-Files), which were created utilizing the numbers assigned to each individual during the 1940 registration. The files were established as a means of tracking an alien’s experience as they moved through the immigration and inspection process within the United States, and the Alien Registration Form was often the first form transferred into the file.

Alien Registration Forms are available for research within A-Files at the National Archives at Kansas City. The National Archives presently maintains more than 350,000 A-Files within Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and will continue to receive files on an annual basis. To learn more about the A-Files and the record request process please visit:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html>.

Lee and Grant Exhibition and Speaker Series

Below are comments from patrons who have recently visited the Lee and Grant exhibition:

This was very interesting and educational. - Medina, NY

Terrific! - Emigrant, MT

Muy Beuno! - Tiajuana, Mexico

Wonderful, the interactive displays are great! - Hot Springs, AR

Excellent, I have been a student and an admirer of General Lee for years and was still able to learn something new from your exhibit. - Alexandria, VA

Fascinating look at two significant figures. - Cleveland, OH

Interesting for us and for our small kids who love the music and the games in the tents. - Columbia, MO

Excellent exhibit! KC is so fortunate to have this facility, I really enjoyed my visit. - Kansas City, MO

Very well done and informative. Wish there was a text I could buy, too! - Denver, CO

Having been to Ft. Lee, VA the info on both men was accurate - and Grant's was outstanding. - Mission, KS

Lee and Grant will be on display through October 22. Save the date for the following lectures offered in partnership with the Fort Leavenworth U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede all events. To make a reservation for any of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

- **Tuesday, July 5** at 6:30 p.m. - Historian Dr. Gregory Hospoder lecturing on *Ulysses S. Grant Before the Civil War*.
- **Tuesday, August 9** at 6:30 p.m. - Historian Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh lecturing on *Grant and Lee: A Study in Comparative Generalship*.
- **Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m.** - Historian Christopher Stowe lecturing on *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*

For additional information, call 816-268-8000 or visit: www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city. Docent-led guided tours are available for groups. To schedule a group visit call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



The National Archives at Kansas City is a regional facility that serves as a repository for more than 50,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by nearly 100 Federal agencies. Serving the Central Plains Region, the archives holds records from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. These records are available for public research and use. The facility is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.

HOURS OF OPERATION

RESEARCH ROOMS: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT GALLERIES: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, visit our web site www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity

