

January 2011

## Local historian Joelouis Mattox to lecture on *Lucile Bluford v. University of Missouri* civil rights case

The National Archives at Kansas City will host local historian **Joelouis Mattox** for a discussion titled "A Case of Discrimination: Lucile Bluford v. the University of Missouri" on **Thursday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m.** A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede the event.

Mattox will highlight the facts in the discrimination case involving Lucile Bluford and her attempts to enroll as a student at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1939. Bluford later became editor and publisher of *The Call*, Kansas City's oldest African-American newspaper. Attendees are encouraged to view the *Documented Rights* exhibition prior to Mattox's lecture, which highlights numerous civil rights cases. For more information or **to make a reservation for this free event**, call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

## Winter Film Series at the National Archives

The National Archives at Kansas City will screen the following films on Saturdays during January and February. All films will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will be introduced by National Archives staff who will explain how the film's content is evident in the holdings of the National Archives. For more information or **to make a reservation for the free film series**, call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

- **January 22** - *National Treasure* Benjamin Franklin Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who've all hunted for the same thing: a war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers after the Revolutionary War. Gate is close to discovering its whereabouts, as is his competition, with the FBI on their trail.



- **January 29** - *The Harvey Girls* On a train trip West to become a mail order bride, Susan Bradley, meets a cheery crew of young women traveling to open a "Harvey House" restaurant at a remote whistle stop to provide good cooking and wholesome company for railway travelers. When Bradley and her bashful suitor find romance daunting, she joins the Harvey Girls instead. The saloon across the street with its alluring worldly-wise women offers them tough competition, fair and foul, and Bradley catches the eye of Ned Trent, the distant but intense proprietor of the bar. Based on *The Harvey Girls* by Samuel Hopkins Adams.

- **February 5** - *In Cold Blood* After a botched robbery results in the brutal murder of a rural family, two drifters elude police, in the end coming to terms with their own mortality and the repercussions of their vile atrocity. Based on the novel *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. \*



- **February 12** - *Ride with the Devil* Jake Roedel and Jack Bull Chiles are friends living in Missouri when the Civil War starts. Jack Bull's father is killed by Kansas Union jayhawkers. The two boys join the Missouri irregulars known as "bushwhackers" or "border ruffians" – informal units loyal to Missouri, not willing to fight someone else's war in Virginia. They meet George Clyde and former slave Daniel Holt, whom Clyde granted his freedom. They battle Jayhawkers using guerrilla tactics and hide out during the winter months. Based on the novel *Woe to Live On* by Daniel Woodrell. \*



\* *In Cold Blood* and *Ride with the Devil* have a MPAA rating of "R" for violence and language; viewer discretion is advised.

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## Upcoming Events

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

- JANUARY 21 - 1:00 P.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: PROVOST MARSHAL RECORDS
- JANUARY 22 - 1:00 P.M. WINTER FILM SERIES: NATIONAL TREASURE
- JANUARY 27 - 6:00 P.M. LECTURE: JOELOUIS MATTOX, "A CASE OF DISCRIMINATION: LUCILE BLUFORD V. THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI"
- JANUARY 28 - 1:00 P.M. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: 68,937 AND COUNTING: UNITED STATES LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY INMATE CASE FILES
- JANUARY 29 - 1:00 P.M. WINTER FILM SERIES: THE HARVEY GIRLS

## Educator Extras!

This month the National Archives will be making available for user feedback the Online Public Access (OPA) prototype. This is our first step to providing a single search to our records from several of our current systems, including the [Archival Research Catalog \(ARC\)](#), [Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#), [Archives.gov](#), and the [Electronic Records Archive \(ERA\)](#). As part of the National Archives' flagship initiative in our Open Government Plan, our new search site is intended to make the permanent records of the federal government easier to find online. We want to get your input as we continue to develop this search portal - a centralized, streamlined means of searching multiple National Archives resources at once. Try it out at: [www.archives.gov/research/search/](http://www.archives.gov/research/search/)

With Online Public Access, you will see:



Contact the National Archives at [search@nara.gov](mailto:search@nara.gov), and tell us what you think!

## 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](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov)

### **Friday, January 21, at 1:00 p.m.** - *Provost Marshal Records*

The Provost Marshal General's Bureau was created in 1863 to streamline the process of filling the ranks of the Union Army. This entailed enrolling men for the draft, enlisting volunteers, conducting physical examinations for enlisted men, and arresting deserters. In the process of carrying out these tasks, the Provost Marshal recorded a wealth of information on men eligible for military service during the Civil War. The result is a gold mine for genealogists, who can use the records of Provost Marshal General's Bureau to learn fascinating details about their ancestors and what their lives were like during this crucial time in American history.

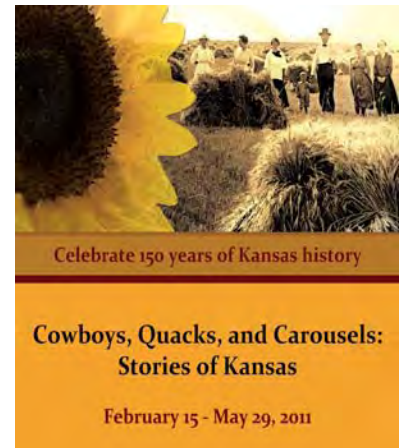
### **Friday, January 28, at 1:00 p.m.** - *68,937 and Counting: Inmate Case Files at U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, KS*

A treasure of information awaits researchers and genealogists inside the prison records of Leavenworth Penitentiary. More than almost any other federal record, inmate case files offer unsurpassed biographical details on the life of an inmate. This presentation will cover what is available inside inmate case files and how to go about using them for genealogical research.

## **Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas** to open February 15, 2011

Kansas history is filled with all types of people, from the famous to the infamous and the ordinary to the extraordinary. Do you know the cowboy who brought longhorn cattle north into Kansas? Would you consider visiting a doctor known for his goat gland cures? Have you ever ridden on a carousel made in Kansas? Joseph McCoy, Dr. John Brinkley, and C. W. Parker are just a few of the individuals that appear in the timeline of Kansas history.

Opening February 15, 2011, *Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas* celebrates the 150th anniversary of Kansas' statehood with a myriad of characters from Kansas history that appear in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City. Using documents from a variety of federal records, this exhibit will introduce some of the ordinary and not-so-ordinary people who have called Kansas their home. *Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas* is curated by the National Archives at Kansas City.





# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## Promoting Soil Conservation

“One cubic mile of the richest top soil in the world” is dumped straight into the Gulf of Mexico by “Old Man Carelessness” and the “Erosion Trucking Company” in this striking cartoon found in Soil Conservation Service (SCS) records, ca. 1935. “Each year the soil carried by the Mississippi River alone to the Gulf of Mexico would build 1250 farms of 160 acres each,” reads an accompanying caption, a startling assessment of the damage wreaked on the fertile soil of the Midwest by water and wind during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s.

Charged with convincing farmers to reduce erosion, SCS set up demonstration projects involving fencing, ditching, dam building, and tree planting to show practical ways to attack the problem. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers provided the labor for these cooperative ventures, which also addressed flood control, irrigation, and drainage.

SCS focused considerable attention on northwest Missouri farms around Bethany. Anti-erosion projects demonstrated the benefits of reforestation, terracing, strip cropping, grassed waterways, contour farming, and crop rotation. Area farmers signed up for soil and erosion surveys, working with conservation specialists to develop plans for proper land use and erosion control methods. Recommendations might include retiring steep slopes from cultivation, managing and improving pastures, building gully structures, or managing timber areas. The projects were cooperative ventures involving the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Extension Service, the County Soil Conservation Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, civic organizations, and individual farmers, all working together with SCS and CCC in a massive effort to stop rich topsoil from blowing away or washing into creeks and rivers and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico.

To assist in acquainting farmers with the support services available to them, local SCS officials at Bethany assembled

several photograph albums, titled “Coordinated Plan for Soil Erosion Control,” depicting activities on farms and demonstration projects in the area. The photographs were taken in the Big Creek and West Tarkio watershed demonstration areas and at the Federal-State Erosion Station near Bethany. Tables and graphs add dramatic facts and figures about the percentage of topsoil already lost and the beneficial effects of improved cropping systems.

The “One Cubic Mile” political cartoon was placed front and center in the albums as a humorous introduction to a serious concern. The image of a horse-drawn wagon in the cartoon is repeated in the subsequent photographs of horses pulling plows and other farm equipment on area farms. A frenzied Uncle Sam jumps up and down in front of a complacent U.S. Flood Commission, desperate to curtail the careless loss of topsoil down the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico. Like Uncle Sam, the SCS officials had a big problem to bring under control, and they needed to stir up public excitement to get the job done.

The National Archives at Kansas City has thousands of documents that relate to the Soil Conservation Service. For more information, email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov) or view the Archival Research Catalog at [www.archives.gov/research/arc](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc). A digital copy of the “One Cubic Mile” political cartoon is available at [Archival Research Catalog Identifier 286145](http://Archival Research Catalog Identifier 286145).



## 1968 in America exhibition closes January 8, 2011

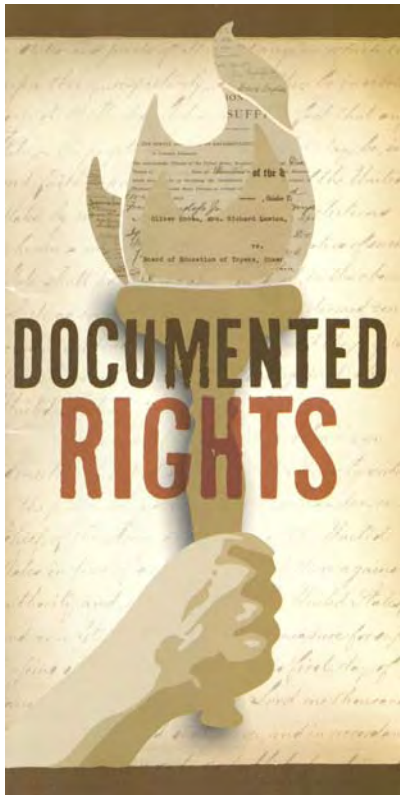
The National Archives at Kansas City recently opened *1968 in America*, a traveling exhibition that traces the tumultuous events of 1968 - a single year in history that rocked the foundations of American society. From the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and the Vietnam War, the extraordinary events of 1968 produced profound stress on social and political systems and confirmed to citizens of all ages that fundamental change was both possible and necessary.



*1968 in America* is a traveling exhibition organized and toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance with The Missouri Arts Council and The National Endowment for the Arts. *1968 in America* will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City, through January 8, 2011.

## Documented Rights exhibition open through March 19, 2011

The National Archives at Kansas City recently opened *Documented Rights*, an exhibition featuring documents from the holdings of the 13 regional National Archives facilities that give a voice to the national struggle for human and civil rights. It features more than 80 documents, facsimiles, images, and sound recordings, including:



- Documents from the five court cases that comprised *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that ended school segregation;
- The story of the schooner *Amistad* and the revolt of its 53 enslaved Africans, told through 1839 court records;
- Slave compensation files from former slave owners seeking monies from the U.S. government after the Civil War;
- Court records for *John Elk v. Charles Wilkins* and *Standing Bear v. General George Crook*, two cases focusing on the civil rights and liberties of Native Americans;
- Petition from relocated Aleuts during WWII, protesting their poor living conditions, that ultimately resulted in a 10% death rate;
- Booklet outlining nonviolent protest of racial segregation by Martin Luther King; and
- A court martial order for Second Lieutenant Jackie Robinson who refused to move to the back of the bus on a military post.

Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our rights as citizens of the United States have been debated, contested, amended, and documented. *Documented Rights* will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City, through March 19, 2011. For more information about *Documented Rights* visit [www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights)



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](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city) or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity)