

September 2010

Alien Files coming to the National Archives, September 1

For the first time, more than 300,000 case files on alien residents of the United States who were born 1909 and prior are now open to the public at the National Archives at Kansas City. These files, known as "Alien Files" (commonly referred to as "A-Files") have been transferred to the National Archives from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and are only a small part of the millions of case files that will eventually be transferred and opened to the public.

"The A-files are a key to unlocking the fascinating stories of millions of people who traveled to the United States in search of opportunity, including my own grandfather," said Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero.

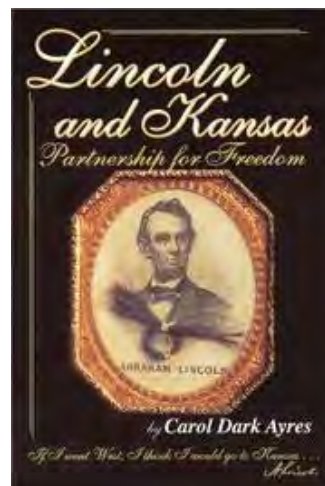
The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the predecessor agency of USCIS, began issuing aliens Alien Registration numbers in 1940, and on April 1, 1944, began using this number to create the A-Files. A-Files document the famous, the infamous, the anonymous and the well-known, and are an historical and genealogical goldmine. These files contain an abundance of relatively modern immigration documents in one file, making them a rich source of biographical information.

A-Files are eligible for transfer to the National Archives when 100 years have passed since the birth date of the subject of a file and ensure that these records will be saved and made available to the public. The National Archives at Kansas City will maintain A-Files from all USCIS district offices except San Francisco, Honolulu, Reno, and Guam. These files will be housed at the National Archives at San Francisco because of the significant research use of related immigration files there. A-Files may be viewed in person by appointment at the National Archives or copies of files may be ordered for a fee. For additional information on requesting A-Files, visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html>

Carol Dark Ayres to discuss *Lincoln and Kansas: Partnership for Freedom*, September 23

The National Archives at Kansas City will host **Carol Dark Ayres on Thursday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m.** for a discussion of her book *Lincoln and Kansas*. Ayres will be available to sign copies of her book after the discussion. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the event.

Lincoln and Kansas chronicles the much overlooked but historically important visit of Abraham Lincoln to Kansas in December 1859. Lincoln traveled to Kansas to give his first campaign speech for the presidency and to help Republican candidates vie successfully in the upcoming election. Drawing extensively from original sources of newspaper accounts and memoirs of people of the period, Ayres uses the rich language of the era to enable reader to experience the event for themselves.



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Upcoming Events

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

- SEPTEMBER 9 - 6:00 P.M.
TREVOR PLANTE DISCUSSES
"LINCOLN IN THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES"
- SEPTEMBER 10 - 10:00 A.M.
MILITARY RECORDS
WORKSHOP
- SEPTEMBER 18 - 10:00 A.M.
ANCESTRY.COM WORKSHOP
ON AFRICAN AMERICAN
RESEARCH
- SEPTEMBER 23 - 6:00 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT: CAROL
DARK AYRES ON *LINCOLN
AND KANSAS*
- THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27 -
*ABRAHAM LINCOLN: SELF-
MADE IN AMERICA*
EXHIBITION
- SEPTEMBER 29 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY 101
WORKSHOP

Special Program Lincoln in the National Archives

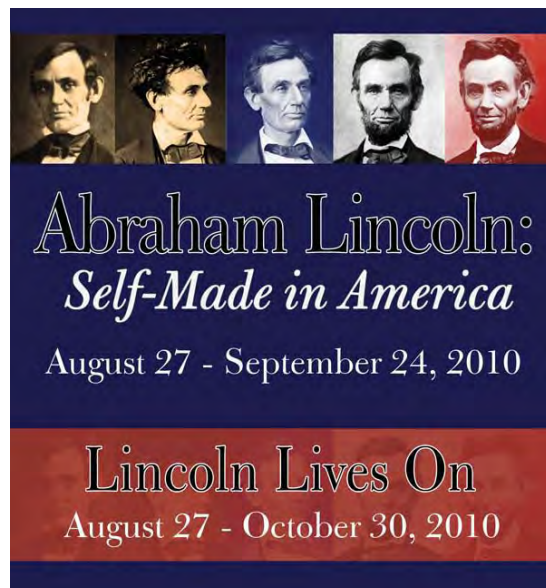
The National Archives will host **Trevor Plante on Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m.** for a discussion of "Lincoln in the National Archives." Archivist and author Plante will present information on records held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., relating to Abraham Lincoln. Examples of documents will be shown focusing primarily on records created during Lincoln's presidency, his assassination, and its aftermath. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the event. Attendees are encouraged to view the two Lincoln exhibitions, *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* and *Lincoln Lives On*, prior to Plante's talk.

National Archives features two exhibitions on the life of Abraham Lincoln

The National Archives recently opened two exhibitions celebrating the life of Abraham Lincoln. *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* is a traveling exhibit featuring reproduction artifacts from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. *Lincoln Lives On* is an exhibit created by the National Archives at Kansas City featuring original materials from the local community.

Created to commemorate the 200th anniversary and birth of one of America's best presidents, *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* covers Lincoln's childhood, self-education, careers as a surveyor and lawyer, family life, political career, election to the Presidency, and his assassination. The reproduction artifacts on display, all modeled from originals in the Presidential Library and Museum, include: Lincoln's favorite books; his son Tad's toy cannon; the nameplate from his Springfield home; his stovepipe hat, which he used like a briefcase to hold important papers; a Presidential campaign banner; an axe that Lincoln used to chop wood; the bloody gloves found in Lincoln's pocket the night of his assassination; and many other unique items.

Lincoln Lives On explores how Lincoln's persona has been built up to create a larger than life figure over the past 145 years and examines the man behind the myth. Telling Lincoln's story from a local perspective, the exhibit features original letters, signed documents, photographs, campaign buttons, and more from the holdings of the National Archives, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, University of Saint Mary, and private collections. Both exhibitions open on August 27, 2010. *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* will be on display through September 24, 2010, and *Lincoln Lives On* will run through October 30, 2010.



Educator Extras!

School Library Journal focuses on National Archives Regional Facilities

Recently *School Library Journal's* Curriculum Connections featured an article about the National Archives Regional Facilities. Written by National Archives at Kansas City staff member, Joyce Burner, the article highlights some of the many facets of each regional office. If you only associate the National Archives and Records Administration with Washington, DC, you're in for a pleasant surprise! Nationwide the National Archives operates Regional Archives at 13 locations around the United States. Each Regional Archive preserves records produced and collected by federal agencies within a specific multi-state area, creating a treasure trove of regional history.



The Regional Archives are open to the public and welcome on-site visitors. At each location professional archivists host workshops and events related to regional history. In addition, many of the sites offer online resources that will enhance the study of U.S. history for students all over the country. For more information on the National Archives regions visit www.archives.gov/locations And to read the entire *School Library Journal* article go to <http://tiny.cc/2s3g3>

Gems for Genealogists September Genealogy Workshops



The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering the following **free** Genealogical Workshop Series during September. These workshops are **free**, but reservations are encouraged. To ensure your seat call 816-268-8010 or register by emailing: kansascity.educate@nara.gov

Friday, September 10 – 10:00 a.m. *Military Records at the National Archives* - Archivist Trevor Plante will be presenting a talk on military records held by the National Archives in the Washington, DC, area and the National Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Learn about records that are available to discover interesting stories about your family history or how to obtain copies of military records.

Saturday, September 11 and Friday, September 24 – 10:00 a.m. *American Indian Study Group* – This presentation, taught by Shirley Donaldson, will explore Indian Boarding Schools, particularly those located in the Central Plains Region including schools in Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Saturday, September 18 – 10:00 a.m. *African American Resources on Ancestry.com* – African American genealogy research can be extremely challenging and labor intensive. Sabrina Petersen will teach you how to set a solid base for your research and offer some helpful hints of where to research next. Petersen will offer an in depth look at what can be found on Ancestry.com and at the National Archives to help further family research.

Wednesday, September 29 – 10:00 a.m. *Genealogy 101* – Certified genealogist Evie Bresette will teach this introductory course on where to start looking for records and how to begin genealogy research at the National Archives.

Are you on the National Archives mailing list?

If the answer is “no,” then drop us an email with your address; send it to: kansascity.educate@nara.gov (By providing your information, you grant permission to the National Archives at Kansas City to send you information about programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974 we will not share your personal information with third par-

View *Partisan Pieces* exhibition at the National Archives through October 2



Available for viewing through October 2 is ***Partisan Pieces: Quilts of Political and Patriotic Persuasion***, an exhibition which features 12 historical quilts from the 1840s-1940s. The quilts are from a traveling exhibition, on loan from the International Quilt Study Center and Museum at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Partisan Pieces features a dozen quilts made of pieced and appliquéd stars, flags, eagles, campaign ribbons, and flowers. The theme and focus is on the political and patriotic sentiments of the women who made them during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This exhibition is a sampling of the numerous ways women cast their vote, if not their ballot, in the years before suffrage. *Partisan Pieces* breaks new ground in the search for women’s rights as a new government and nation were being created. Rather than reading between the lines you can read between the stitches to gain new insights into the minds and emotions of the founding mothers.

The quilts in this exhibition were donated to the International Quilt Study Center from several collectors including: Linda Giesler Carlson and Dr. John V. Carlson; Sarah and Byron Dillow; Jonathan Holstein; and Ardis and Robert James.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

The last armed conflict between the Great Sioux Nation and the United States of America took place at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on December 29, 1890. Known as the Wounded Knee Massacre, this event serves as an exclamation point at the end of a very long sentence about Native American and U.S. government relations. For the Sioux Indians who lived in the Dakotas they feared the loss of their culture and the ability to follow the old ways. They were not allowed to hunt freely and move around, the buffalo were gone, and they were confined to Indian reservations where they were dependent upon Indian agents for their existence.

Form No. 1.

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TEOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK

Received at Pine Ridge Agency, S. D. Dec 20 1890
 Dated 7:45 P.M.

To Pioneer, Deadwood - S.D.

*Expedition friendlies after Bad
 lead hostiles just departing. Wild scene.
 Squaw death chant heard in every direction.
 Their hostiles may be brought in.
 and Pine Ridge Indians.
 Situation troops impatient at long delay;
 civilians indignant. Law for some tomorrow. B*

A religious movement referred to as the Ghost Dance arose as a result of these conditions. During the fall of 1890 the Ghost Dance spread through the Sioux villages of the Dakota reservations. These actions frightened white civilians and military leaders.

In response the government issued an order calling for the arrest of Chief Sitting Bull. However, during the arrest Sitting Bull was killed on December 15, 1890. The next chief targeted was Chief Big Foot. Big Foot, a Miniconjou Lakota leader, lived on the Cheyenne River Reservation. His band went to Pine Ridge to join up peacefully with Red Cloud. The army intercepted the group and brought them to a camp on the edge of Wounded Knee Creek. On the morning of December 29, the soldiers started to disarm the Indians, who were reluctant to give up their weapons. A shot was fired - likely accidental - and the already tense atmosphere exploded and soldiers fired into the Indian camp. When the shooting finally stopped, between 250 and 300 Sioux were dead, Chief Big Foot among them. Later, a common grave was dug in which 146 bodies were placed, the rest having been removed before the burial party arrived a few days later. Twenty-five soldiers lost their lives. The telegram (pictured above) dated December 20, 1890, was sent from the Pine Ridge Indian Agency to the *Black Hills Pioneer*, the newspaper in Deadwood, South Dakota, to report on the unsettled conditions near the Agency only nine days prior to the events at Wounded Knee.

The National Archives at Kansas City has thousands of documents that relate to reservation life for Native Americans, and many are available in the Archival Research Catalog at www.archives.gov/research/arc



The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 13 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to 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. 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, email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or visit our website www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity