

June 2017

National Archives to Offer Free Friday Summer Fun Tours

This summer, National Archives public programs staff will offer Free Friday Summer Fun Tours of the facility and *We the People* exhibit. *We the People* highlights the millions of records that give insight into the lives of ordinary people. The one-hour tour will provide visitors with an overview about records housed at the Archives. Tour participants will also learn the history of the Adams-Express Building, which houses the National Archives at Kansas City, along with other features within the building. Tours will be offered on the following dates:

- Friday, June 16
- Friday, June 30
- Friday, July 14
- Friday, July 28

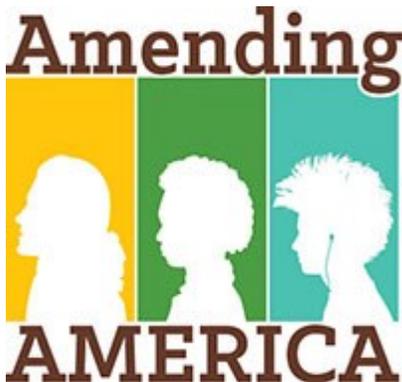
Group tours must be scheduled 48 hours in advance and are limited to no more than 12 people per group. Tours times are available between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. More information about group tours can be found [here](#).

Reservations are required for tours by calling 816-268-8072 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov.



National Conversations Series Concludes June 21 & 22

As part of its Amending America initiative, the National Archives and Records Administration presents the *National Conversation on Rights and Justice: Building a More Perfect Union* at the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, on June 21 – 22, 2017.



Join us as we debate some of the most critical issues facing our nation today with leaders from across the country discussing subjects ranging from national security to responsibilities of citizens to the court system and beyond.

This event is the culmination of a six-part, multi-city series, including topics on Civil Rights and Individual Freedom, LGBTQ Human Rights and Civil Rights, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Immigration: Access and Barriers, and Educational Access and Equity.

For those who cannot travel to Washington, D.C. this event will be livestreamed for **free**. Register online [here](#).

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Upcoming Events

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

• **JUNE 16** - TIMES VARY:
FREE FRIDAY SUMMER
FUN TOURS

• **JUNE 21 & 22** - TIMES VARY: NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON RIGHTS AND JUSTICE AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM

• **JUNE 30** - TIMES VARY:
FREE FRIDAY SUMMER
FUN TOURS

Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

Several upcoming free professional development opportunities are listed below for educators offered by either the National Archives or our program partners.

- **Honoring Tribal Legacies on Monday, June 5** - Join National Archives Education Staff for a free professional development webinar on Monday, June 5 at 7 p.m. or 10 p.m. Eastern Time to learn quick and easy ways to incorporate the *Honoring Tribal Legacies Handbook* into your curriculum. *Honoring Tribal Legacies*, underwritten by the National Park Service, introduces many unique Native American viewpoints. It builds upon the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which was observed from 2003 to 2006. This workshop will be taught by Dr. Stephanie Wood from the University of Oregon, and Carol Buswell from the National Archives Education and Public Programs Team. Wood is editor and major contributor to the *Honoring Tribal Legacies Handbook*; Buswell is one of the designers of the seven *Honoring Tribal Legacies* teaching units.



The curriculum promises to expand your students' modern cultural understandings, while also greatly informing their study of westward expansion. One-hour of National Archives Professional Development Certificate credit will be given. Some school districts and libraries accept these certificates for required Professional Development credit. Be sure to check with your district in advance. Suitable for all grade levels. To register, email distancelearning@nara.gov.

- **Teaching in the Culturally Diverse Classroom on Thursday, June, 22** - No matter the school or school district, students from a variety of countries and cultural backgrounds constitute classrooms. In this International Relations Council workshop for teachers of grades 7-12, experts on culture and education will provide a context for globalized classrooms, share useful cultural models, offer resources and activities that can be used across subject areas to enhance students' cultural competence, and support teachers in developing and sharing their own activities. This workshop is free and lunch is provided. The workshop runs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Regnier Center at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas 66210. To register, email mhughes@irckcorg.
- **How Many "Trails of Tears?": Native American Forced Removal on Thursday, October 19** - Join National Archives staff for this workshop offered on Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. or 10 p.m. Eastern Time. Many people associate the term "Trail of Tears" with the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from the southeastern U.S. to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Of course, they would be correct. However, there were other forced removals of tribes from the eastern and mid-western United States to various locations across the United States, some of which might have been from (or crossed through) your very own area of the country. U.S. government records of the Cherokee and other removals are equally profoundly enlightening and deeply disturbing. Learn how to find and work with these records while incorporating them into classroom curriculum. Suitable for all grade levels. To register, email distancelearning@nara.gov.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred 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.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Personal Conflict in the Midst of International Conflict: Bankruptcy Case Files

Editorial note: In 2017, the United States will commemorate the 100th anniversary of its involvement in World War I, known as the Great War. Throughout 2017, in each issue of this monthly newsletter, the National Archives at Kansas City will highlight materials from our holdings that illustrate various aspects of the war - either on the home front or abroad.

When the United States joined the Allied war effort in April 1917, the country's focus seemed to be exclusively on the war effort as important work needed to be done to raise an army, equip it with the weapons of war, and produce the necessary supplies. National attention turned to the larger war effort, but life at home continued with the usual personal conflicts: marital strife, social and cultural issues, and economic insecurities. A look into the daily life of a Kansas City native provides an interesting juxtaposition to the international wartime experience.

Born on June 13, 1875, in Kansas City, Missouri, Velma Vineyard was the sixth of seven children of William - a real estate broker - and Emma Vineyard. William's success came from laying out new sections of land that expanded the size of Kansas City and serving as a stockholder and director of the Union National Bank of Kansas City.

On October 11, 1898, Velma married James H. Chandler, Jr., and three years later the pair welcomed the arrival of their only daughter Celeste.

The March 29, 1914, the passing of Velma's father William introduced turmoil into the Vineyard family's lives as the children vied for their inheritance. Familial tensions erupted with Velma and five other siblings filing suit in the city's circuit court against their mother Emma Vineyard, executor of William's estate, on June 23, 1914. The escalation of Velma's personal conflict coincided with a shift in international politics as the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie were assassinated on June 28, 1914, igniting the flames of war.

Velma's battle in court continued for over the next two years. The court ultimately rendered her several parcels of prominent land in the Ross and Scarritt Addition and the Scarritt and Perry Subdivision in Kansas City on August 6, 1916. Just eight months after Velma's inheritance fight quieted, the United States joined the Allied forces in World War I.

Life in Kansas City continued for Velma seemingly uninterrupted by the war, outside of home front initiatives such as rationing; her husband and brothers were too old to register for the first draft registration on June 5, 1917. Although her family's lawsuit was behind her, a new struggle was introduced October 30, 1917, when she voluntarily filed for bankruptcy in the United States District Court for the Western District, Western Division of Missouri (Kansas City) due to an estimated \$27,000-28,000 in missed payments and back taxes - accounting for inflation, this would equal \$560,000 in today's currency. The bankruptcy case focuses exclusively on the parcels of land that were awarded to her in the civil suit regarding her father's estate.

Ultimately the court determined that they would forgive the liens on the property and sell the land to cover her debt. According to the court decree on April 26, 1918, the "Sale [was] to be held at the South front door of the Jackson County Circuit Court House in Kansas City, Missouri." Fortunately, the land sold for \$30,000 cash; enough to repay her debt, but unfortunately well below the value she had estimated at \$56,000. Although the case file does not explore the cause of her debt or include a map to show the specific land in question, it is unique for two reasons: many women did not file for bankruptcy during this time and few women owned property.

Velma's personal conflict subsided, but by September 1918 the United States established the third draft registration for men age 18 through 45 to fill the military's ranks as World War I continued. Although they were too old to register for the first draft in 1917, Velma's brother Elva Jack and her husband met the age requirement for this third draft registration. Fortunately, her family was not among the 441 Kansas City men and women who suffered casualties during World War I.

Velma Chandler's local experiences in the midst of international war highlight the personal battles many faced on the home front. Bankruptcy case files, like Velma's, can help researchers understand the economic circumstances facing individuals and companies in our country during both times of war and times of peace. Almost all bankruptcy case files dated 1800-2000 from throughout the country are stored at the National Archives at Kansas City. For more information about records related to World War I or the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).

(Continued on next page)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN
DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

In the Matter of

VELMA V. CHANDLER,
Bankrupt.

In Bankruptcy.
No. 3322

D E C R E E

This cause coming on this day for hearing on the inter-
vening petitions heretofore filed herein, the cause is submitted
to the Court on the pleadings, evidence and arguments of counsel,
and the Court makes the following findings:

Said bankrupt Velma V. Chandler is the owner in fee
simple of the following described real estate situated in Jackson
County, Missouri, to-wit:

The east eighty-six (86) feet of Lots one hundred
seventy-one (171), one hundred seventy-two (172)
and one hundred seventy-three (173) of Ross and
Scarritt's addition in Kansas City.

Lots eighteen (18), twenty-three (23), thirty-
three (33) and thirty-eight (38) in South Wood-
lands, a subdivision of part of Section twenty-
one (21), in township forty-eight (48), and Range
thirty-three (33).

Lot G of the Commissioners' Plat of Lot twenty-four
(24) of Scarritt and Peery's subdivision of the east
half of the southwest quarter of Section eight (8),
in township forty-nine (49) and Range thirty-three
(33), said Lot G. being described as follows:
Beginning on the west line of Main Street, as now es-
tablished at a point forty-eight and eighty-one-one-hun-
dredths (48.81) feet South of the intersection of the
North line of the said lot twenty-four (24) Scarritt &
Peery's Subdivision with the said west line of Main Street
thence west one hundred and one (101) feet to the east
line of the alley west of Main Street; thence south
fifty-eight (58) feet with the east line of said alley;

(Continued from page 4)

Left: Exhibit B from the case. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Western (Kansas City) Division of the Western District of Missouri, Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1898-1950, *In the Matter of Velma V. Chandler, bankrupt*, Bankruptcy Case No. 3322. National Archives Identifier 572819.

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

Whereas, **Velma V. Chandler** and **J. H. Chandler**, her husband, by their deed of trust dated the 6th day of February, 1915, recorded in the Recorder's Office of Jackson County, Missouri, at Kansas City, in Book B-1605, at page 624, conveyed to the undersigned trustee, an undivided one-seventh (1-7) interest in the land hereinafter described and other land in said deed of trust described; and, whereas, by decree of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, at Kansas City, on March 2nd, 1916, in the suit of **Chandler et al. v. Vineyard et al.**, being cause No. 83588, the whole of the land hereinafter described was allotted in severalty to said **Velma V. Chandler** and the lien of said deed of trust was decreed to extend to and embrace the same in lieu of the undivided interest in that and other land described in said deed of trust; and, whereas, default has been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust. Now, therefore, at the request of the holder of said indebtedness, the undersigned trustee, will, on **November 5th, 1917**, between nine o'clock A. M. and five o'clock P. M., at the south front door of the Jackson County Circuit Court House in Kansas City, in Jackson County, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay said indebtedness and the cost of executing this trust, the following described land situated in Jackson County, Missouri, to-wit:

The east eighty-six (86) feet of Lots one hundred seventy-one (171), one hundred seventy-two (172) and one hundred seventy-three (173) of Ross and Scarritt's Addition in Kansas City.

Lots eighteen (18), twenty-three (23), thirty-three (33) and thirty-eight (38) in South Woodlands, a subdivision of part of Section twenty-one (21), in Township forty-eight (48), and Range thirty-three (33).

Lot G of the Commissioners' Plat of Lot twenty-four (24) of Scarritt and Peery's Subdivision of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section eight (8), in Township forty-nine (49) and Range thirty-three (33), said Lot G being described as follows: Beginning on the west line of Main Street, as now established at a point forty-eight and eighty one-hundredths (48.81) feet South of the intersection of the north line of the said Lot Twenty-four (24) Scarritt & Peery's Subdivision with the said west line of Main Street; thence west one hundred and one (101) feet to the east line of the alley west of Main Street; thence south fifty-eight (58) feet with the east line of said alley; thence east one hundred and one (101) feet to an intersection with the west line of Main Street as now established; thence north with said west line of Main Street fifty-eight (58) feet to point of beginning.

The east eight and one-third (8 1-3) feet of Lot Nine (9) all of Lot Ten (10), and the west eight and one-third (8 1-3) feet of Lot Eleven (11) and all of Lots Twenty (20) and Twenty-one (21) of Vineyard's Fourth Addition, in Kansas City, as shown by recorded plat thereof.

Lot One (1) of the Commissioners' Plat of The Wm. Vineyard Estate filed with the Commissioners' report in said suit, said lot consisting of that part of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section Twenty-three (23), in Township Forty-nine (49), Range Thirty-three (33), lying north of Thirty-seventh Street and Vineyard Road and containing 44.242 acres, more or less.

ARTHUR C. COWAN,
Trustee.

First publication October 12th, 1917.

Exhibit B.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City 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/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives.

