

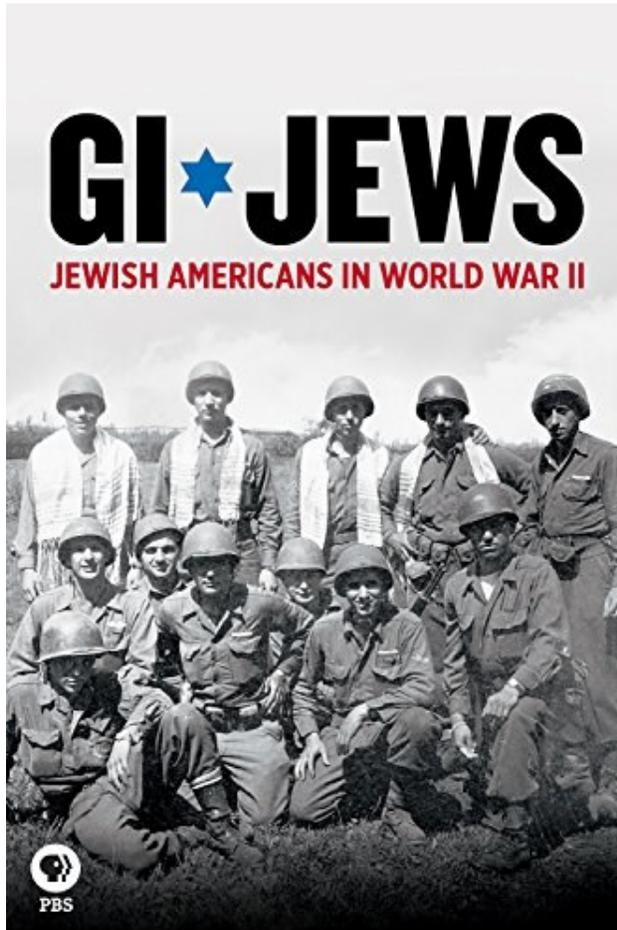


Film Screening of *GI Jews:* *Jewish Americans in World War II* at Park University

On **Monday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Park University, will host a film screening of *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*. This program will take place in the Jenkin and Barbara David Theater in Alumni Hall on the Park University campus, 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this free program.

This documentary tells the profound and unique story of the 550,000 Jewish men and women who served in World War II. The film brings to life their little-known story as active participants in the fight against Hitler, bigotry and intolerance. Like all Americans, they fought against fascism, but they also waged a more personal fight to save their brethren in Europe. Jewish servicemen were also among the first to assist the survivors of the Nazi concentration camps liberated by American troops.

After years of struggle, these soldiers emerged transformed, more powerfully American and more deeply Jewish, determined to continue the fight for equality and tolerance at home. Veterans both famous, including Hollywood stars Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner, and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and unknown share their war experiences: how they fought for their nation and people and struggled with anti-Semitism within their ranks.



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Upcoming Events

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

- **MAY 6 - 6:00 P.M.**
*FILM SCREENING: *GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II*
- **MAY 27 - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY: FACILITY CLOSED**

Upcoming Summer Facility Reminders

- **Monday, May 27** - Memorial Day Holiday - facility closed.
- **Tuesday, June 18** - Election Day - the National Archives at Kansas City is a polling site. Increased foot traffic and limited parking is expected.
- **Thursday, July 4** - Independence Day Holiday - facility closed.
- **Monday, September 2** - Labor Day Holiday - facility closed.

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

Archivist Joyce Burner to Retire

On May 31, Archivist Joyce Burner will be retiring after a distinguished career at the National Archives at Kansas City. Joyce began her career with us as an intern in 2009. She was subsequently hired as a contractor working on archival preservation projects for us at our offsite location at Lee's Summit, Missouri. Following the completion of that contract, Joyce volunteered her services for several months prior to being hired into a permanent position of Archivist in April 2010.

Throughout her career, Joyce has responded to thousands of reference requests submitted by the public. She has worked with hundreds of in-person researchers in our research room. In addition, Joyce led multiple teams that processed thousands of cubic feet of Bureau of Indian Affairs (Record Group 75) holdings, including records from the following agencies: Cheyenne River Agency, Crow Creek Agency, Fort Berthold Agency, Rosebud/Yankton Agency, and Winnebago Agency. This work involved the physical arrangement of the records, re-folding and re-boxing as necessary, creating detailed box and folder lists, and writing the series level descriptions for inclusion in the National Archives Catalog. Through Joyce's leadership, our office has completed processing work on all of our RG 75 holdings.

Joyce also served as the Preservation Liaison in our office, coordinating with the preservation and conservation staff in Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland, on a variety of projects to ensure the high standards of care and custodianship of our significant collections were achieved. It was through Joyce's leadership that we created the successful "Preservation Matters" workshops that were held in 2012 and 2013. Joyce was recognized with a special "Excellence in Research Services" award for her preservation work in 2017.

Joyce has graciously shared her professional knowledge with dozens of staff, students, interns, and the public during her tenure. Her guidance and encouragement have helped many undergraduate and graduate students as they embarked on their own careers in the archives field.

We thank Joyce for her years of dedicated service. She leaves an invaluable legacy that will affect thousands of people for years to come. She will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her retirement.



Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



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 find us on Instagram @kansascity.archives or 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 special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.

Hidden Treasures from the Stack

162 Words: Richard Franklin Pettigrew and Espionage Act of 1917

On Duluth Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, stands a house once owned by Richard Franklin Pettigrew. Pettigrew was the first person to serve as a United States Senator for the state of South Dakota. He hung two framed documents in his house, right next to each other. The first was the Declaration of Independence. The second was his indictment for violating the Espionage Act of 1917.

Pettigrew was born in Vermont in 1848 but he made his name in the Dakotas as a lawyer, surveyor, businessman, and politician. In 1899, he was elected to the United States Senate. He was a Republican who grew to despise what he saw as a corruption of American values through crony capitalism and imperialism. By the time the United States entered World War I, Pettigrew's views were unpopular and his willingness to share them publicly was a threat to his own liberty.

When the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson demanded all the nation's citizens be supporters of the war effort. "If there should be disloyalty, it will be dealt with a firm hand of repression," Wilson said. Two months later, the Espionage Act was passed by Congress. The act made it illegal to say or do anything that federal authorities deemed harmful to the United States ability to win the war. Though the act was a violation of the First Amendment, it was justified by the urgency of a national war effort. Over two thousand people were charged under the Espionage and Sedition Acts during the war. A person convicted for violating these laws could expect a sentence of ten to twenty years in federal prison.

On October 6, 1917, Pettigrew spoke to a reporter for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader named P. F. Leavens. Asked for his thoughts on the United States entering World War I, Pettigrew did not hold back. "There is no excuse for this war . . . we should back right out of it." He believed the war was a scheme to line the pockets of the wealthy. "Sympathy is being extended to Belgium. She deserves none. Fifty years ago, Belgium robbed the Congo. This made Belgium wealthy, but three-fourths of her people did not share in this wealth. If she is now indemnified it will go to the men who robbed the negroes of the Congo."

The United States Attorney for South Dakota believed Pettigrew had violated the Espionage Act and a warrant for his arrest was issued on November 19, 1917. His bond was set at \$5,000 (roughly \$100,000 in today's money). The indictment accused Pettigrew of "feloniously saying and uttering certain false statements, with intent to promote the success of the enemy of the United States, that is to say, the Imperial German Government; feloniously obstructing the recruiting and enlistment service of the United States; and feloniously causing and attempting to cause disloyalty, insubordination, mutiny and refusal of duty in the military forces of the United States, to the injury of the United States." For the 162 words attributed to Pettigrew in the indictment, the 69-year old former senator faced a 20-year sentence.

To defend him against the indictment, Pettigrew retained his friend Clarence Darrow. Darrow was an attorney with a national profile and 40 years of experience practicing law. Darrow's strategy was not to defend Pettigrew in a trial but to find a way to delay the trial again and again until the war ended. Over the course of 22 months Darrow filed multiple motions based on affidavits from no fewer than seven different doctors. According to them, Pettigrew was ill with a series of dangerous health problems. Each time the motion requested a continuance because Pettigrew's declining health made him currently unable to stand the stress of a trial or imprisonment, so much so that making him stand trial would endanger his life. The government for its part had its own doctor evaluate Pettigrew and determined he was in "fairly good condition for his age of sixty-nine years." The government's doctor concluded that Pettigrew was in as good health as he would ever be and was fit to stand trial.

Darrow also filed his own affidavit saying that he personally couldn't prepare for trial because "he has been very much interested in the prosecution of the war by the United States and has been giving all the time that he could possibly spare toward making addresses in various States of the Union on the subject of duty of Americans in supporting and sustaining this war . . . this affiant is anxious to do said work on account of his interest in the war. At the same time he is under obligation to said Pettigrew . . . if said case should be tried at this time it would seriously interfere with the war work he is desirous to of doing and which has been preemptively requested of him."

In the end, Darrow's strategy worked. On October 3, 1919, a little over a month before the war ended, the prosecution entered a nolle prosequi to the indictment. It was a formal notice of abandonment of the charges by the United States Attorney. The experience did not mellow Pettigrew. After the indictment was dismissed, he wrote a book about his fifty years in public life called *Triumphant Plutocracy*. Richard Franklin Pettigrew lived out his days in Sioux Falls and died in 1926. More information about this case and others can be found in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA. }

To the Marshal of the United States for the District of South Dakota,
and to his Deputies or Any or Either of Them :

WHEREAS, at a term of the District Court of the United States, for the District of South Dakota,
begun and held at Sioux Falls, within and for the District aforesaid, on the 17th
day of October, A. D. 19 17, the Grand Jurors in and for the said District of
South Dakota, brought into the said Court, a true bill of indictment against

Richard Franklin Pettigrew,

charging him with the crime of ~~feloniously saying and uttering certain false~~
~~statements, with intent to promote the success of the enemy of the United~~
~~States, that is to say, the Imperial German Government; feloniously ob-~~
~~structing the recruiting and enlistment service of the United States, to~~
~~the injury of the United States; and feloniously causing and attempting~~
~~to cause disloyalty, insubordination, mutiny and refusal of duty in the~~
~~military forces of the United States, to the injury of the United States,~~
~~Viol. Sec. 3 - Act of June 15, 1917,~~ as by said

indictment now remaining on file, and of record in the said Court, may more fully appear, to which said
indictment the said Richard Franklin Pettigrew

has not yet appeared or pleaded.

NOW, THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded in the name of the President of the United
States to apprehend the said Richard Franklin Pettigrew
and bring his body before the said Court at Sioux Falls, to answer the
indictment aforesaid.

FRANK A. YOUNG, Acting
WITNESS, the Honorable ~~JAMES D. ELLIOTT~~, Judge of said United

States District Court, District of South Dakota, and my hand and
seal of said Court, at Sioux Falls, this 27th
day of October, A. D. 19 17.

Oliver S. Pendar
Clerk.
By C. C. Schwarz
Deputy.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
SOUTHERN DIVISION.

o-o

United States of America, :
Plaintiff, :

-vs- : M O T I O N.

Richard F. Pettigrew, :
Defendant. :

o-o

Now comes the above named defendant by Mr. Clarence S. Darrow, and Mr. C. O. Bailey, his attorneys, and moves the court for a continuance of said cause over the April, 1918, term of the District Court of the United States, for the District of South Dakota, Southern Division, upon the ground of the illness of said defendant and upon the further ground of the engagement of his chief counsel herein in war duties, and in support of said motion, presents the annexed affidavits of Charles P. Stewart, John H. Stokes, Herman L. Kretschmer, Clarence S. Darrow, Milton M. Portis, Alonzo C. Penny, John Leeming, and William O. Krohn.

Dated Sioux Falls, South Dakota, April 2nd, 1918.

Clarence S. Darrow

and

C. O. Bailey

Attorneys for Richard F. Pettigrew,
Defendant.

Upcoming Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

America and the World: Foreign Affairs in Political Cartoons, 1898–1940

Thursday, May 30, at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Daylight Time

Explore political cartoons for engaging students in a discussion of American foreign policy from the Spanish-American War to the eve of World War II. The Clifford K. Berryman cartoon collection at the Center for Legislative Archives provides insights into the institutions, issues, and events that shaped a critical period of American history. Learn about additional resources for bringing these cartoons into your classroom. This webinar is designed for high school educators. [Registration](#) is required.

Beyond the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Accessing American Indian Records from the National Archives

Wednesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Daylight Time

Explore different types of American Indian documents across multiple record groups and discover different ways of incorporating these important primary sources into your classroom. *This webinar is part of our Native American professional development series. Each program features new resources for locating and using Federal records related to American Indians and Alaska Natives.* [Registration](#) is required.

Penpals from the Past: American Indian Schools in the United States

Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Daylight Time

Schools for Native American children and youth have existed since before the Revolutionary War. Although encouraged by the U.S. Government, schools between 1776 and 1879, were run primarily by religious institutions and, as a result, are not usually represented in National Archives holdings. In this webinar, we will learn about Indian Boarding and Day School records created primarily after 1879 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and see some examples of class schedules and student work from then until today. *This webinar is part of our Native American professional development series. Each program features new resources for locating and using Federal records related to American Indians and Alaska Natives.* [Registration](#) is required.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

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. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.