

December 2016

What Happened, Miss Simone? Film Screening and Panel Discussion

On **Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host a film screening of *What Happened, Miss Simone?*, with post-film discussion led by **Glenn North** and **Lisa Henry**. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

Directed by **Liz Garbus**, *What Happened, Miss Simone?*, is a biographical film about music artist Nina Simone. Simone dreamed as a child of becoming a classical pianist, but instead became one of the world's most talented jazz singers and musicians. She was also a fierce civil rights activist, a role which (combined with an un-diagnosed bipolar disorder) eventually led to her self-imposed exile from the United States. Post-film discussion with the audience will be led by Glenn North, poet and Director of Education at the Black Archives of Mid-America; and Lisa Henry, award-winning Kansas City jazz artist and music educator. *This program is presented in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.*



Reservations are requested for this **free film** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

News and Notes

The National Archives at Kansas City will observe the following Federal holiday hours in December and January.

December 2016

Monday, December 26 - Federal Holiday observance for Christmas, facility will be closed.

January 2017

Monday, January 2 - Federal Holiday observance for New Year's Day, facility will be closed.

Monday, January 16 - Federal Holiday observance for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, facility will be closed.



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Upcoming Events

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

- DEC. 6 - 6:30 P.M.
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
*WHAT HAPPENED,
MISS SIMONE?*
- DEC. 7 - 6:30 P.M.
EVENING LECTURE:
*BEFORE 9/11, THERE
WAS 12/7:
REFLECTIONS OF
DOOLITTLE RAIDER
DICK COLE ON
WORLD WAR II WITH
DR. DENNIS
OKERSTROM**

*DENOTES EVENT IS
OFFSITE.

Last Surviving Member of Doolittle's Raiders to Speak at 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attack Event

On **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.**, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the National Archives will co-host **Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole (USAF Ret.)**, 101 years old and the last surviving member of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, for a conversation on the significance of the air response that changed the course of World War II. The discussion, titled ***Before 9/11, there was a 12/7: Reflections of Doolittle Raider Dick Cole on World War II***, will be held at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. A cash bar/small plates reception will precede the event at 6 p.m.

Admission to the event is **free**; however, due to the expected crowd, **reservations are required**, with seating on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a seat, visit www.park.edu/cole.



Cole will be joined on the stage by **Dennis Okerstrom, Ph.D.**, Park University professor of English and the author of *Dick Cole's War: Doolittle Raider, Hump Pilot Air Commando*. Okerstrom will present a brief history of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. response before introducing Cole, who served as

co-pilot to Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle in the first B-25 to take off from the USS *Hornet* on April 18, 1942, in the U.S. air raid on Tokyo. Cole will discuss his wartime experiences and will answer questions from the audience, moderated by Okerstrom.

Despite the raid on Tokyo resulting in relatively minor damage to the Japanese city, Cole and all of the members of Doolittle Raiders, in recognition the tremendous boost their mission gave to American morale in World War II, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in May 2014 "for outstanding heroism, valor, skill and service to the United States in conducting their bombings of Tokyo." The raid is credited by many historians as the critical factor of the Japanese defeat at the Battle of Midway, often cited as the turning point in the Pacific war.

This program is a partnership of Park University and the National World War I Museum and Memorial in collaboration with the National Archives at Kansas City, the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, and the Truman Center at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

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

Establishing Fort Kearny on the Missouri River

In 1838 Colonel Stephen W. Kearny reported to the Secretary of War after examining the territory along the Missouri River north of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for a suitable location for a military outpost. The site was north of the mouth of Table Creek near present Nebraska City, Nebraska. Kearny described the area in great detail:

Immediately above the mouth of the creek commences a very gradual and beautiful ascent which in about 450 yard reaches to an open level sufficient for any building besides what may be necessary for the drill of any number of Infantry or Dragoons – a large quantity of firewood adjoining and within a mile or two – a great abundance of fine building timber on the opposite side of the Missouri River, and on the public unsurveyed lands in the in the state – the last place for a ferry to be found on the Missouri River – stone in the Bluffs, 100 yards below the mouth of the creek – fine Prairies around to make corn and hay upon – a beautiful fertile Bottom for Gardens – from “the site” is a delightful view of the Missouri River for several miles below and an extensive one of the country in the near – there are no low-lands near it, and the place must be healthy.

In the late spring and early summer of 1843, officers at Jefferson Barracks in near St. Louis, Missouri, were becoming increasingly concerned with unrest by the Otoe tribe in northwestern Missouri. Fearing that the unrest could spread to other tribes in the area, Major General Edmund P. Gaines at his headquarters in St. Louis, asked Colonel Kearny’s options on how to quiet the situation. Colonel Kearny responded with the suggestion of establishing a post at the site he surveyed in 1838 at Table Creek.

On July 6, 1843, Major General Gaines wrote to Adjutant General Roger Jones in Washington, D.C. requesting permission to establish a post. In his letter, he stated that the “. . . post should be constructed of stone, with Barrack and storeroom for a Battalion, with a view to its being defended by one or two companies.” The post was to be established at the site proposed by Colonel Kearny in 1838. Major General Winfield Scott approved and forwarded the request to Secretary of War John M. Porter who decided it was “. . . postponed for the present.”

On December 5, 1843, the citizens of Holt County, Missouri, presented a petition to Secretary of War Porter seeking relief from the native tribes that had become “. . . exceedingly troublesome to the citizens of this county.” The petition went on to describe a number of incidents, including the murder of William LeClair’s wife, the raid on William Mear’s house, and the theft of grains, cattle, and hogs. It was signed by over 100 petitioners. U.S. Senator David R. Atchison of Missouri submitted the petition to the Secretary of War. The petition was forwarded to Colonel Kearny for his review.

Colonel Kearny responded to Adjutant General Jones on February 26, 1844. Kearny pressed for the establishment of a post at the site at Table Creek to control the tribes, as well as to add to the chain of forts along the frontier. He also pointed out that it would “. . . mark the rallying point on the Missouri for the Emigrants to the Oregon Country.” By March 27, the letter was endorsed by Adjutant General Jones and Major General Scott.

Finally, on May 18, 1844, Adjutant General Jones sent orders to Colonel Kearny which began, “The expediency of establishing a new Post on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table Creek, having been decided by the Secretary of War, the duty of selecting the site and all necessary instructions for the erection of barracks and the requisite defenses are devolved upon you. You will therefore please to take the necessary measures accordingly.”

By 1847-48, a fort at this site was no longer needed. In May 1848, the fort was abandoned, and Fort Kearny was relocated west to where the Oregon Trail met the Platte River in present day Buffalo County, Nebraska. This site better served the westward travelers as the various routes from jumping off points to the east had mostly merged into one route. For more information visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Editorial note: pages 4-7 below showcase three letters and a petition that accompany this article.

Below: July 6, 1843 letter from Major General Edmund P. Gaines to Adjutant General Roger Jones requesting to establish a fort at the mouth of Table Creek. The request was denied by Secretary of War John M. Porter. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 77, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City. Real Property Title Files, ca. 1939 - ca. 1985. National Archives Identifier: 26081821

134/23. Kearny - 1844
 Head Q. 2 Miles. Sept. 1843
 134 St. Louis Mo. July 6/43

Major General Gaines
 Command.

Filed with 39. S. O. O. 1843

Enclosing copies of reports from Colonel Kearny, & recommending the establishment of a post at the mouth of Table Creek -

Respectfully
 Submitted -
 E. P. Gaines

From Gen. Gaines' letter (written to Col. Kearny (then at Defense Barracks) dated the 27th instant ultimo, it is possible, if not probable, that

July 17. 1843

that, without waiting for instructions hence, on his preceding report, an expedition may be now on the way to the Osage villages, in order, as the General now says, that those Indians may not be "allowed, by us, to remain unfinished," & by "the arrest of the Spaniards" to restore "order & harmony." His report (4 days before) on which was founded the instructions of the President was all in favour of "natural equity & justice," paternal kindness, forbearance &c. I think well of the proposition of establishing a new post at Table Creek, on Table-run, just within the north-west corner of Wigwag, in lieu of the present abandoned post Fort Croghan. That is, I am in favour of abandoning Fort Croghan & of establishing the new post, within, & according to, the Osage, the Pawnee &c. [Over.] the

This matter will be forwarded for the President's approval
 July 26. 1843

To the Hon James M Porter Sec of War

The undersigned citizens of Holt county Missouri would respectfully represent that since the removal of the U.S Troops from Fort Croghan in the Potowatimie country the Indians on our borders have become exceedingly troublesome to the citizens of this county, but a few days since the house of Mr. Saclaw was entered by the Iowa Indians ^{and} his wife barbarously murdered, the house of Mr. Mear was entered recently by the Otoe Indians and robbed, these Indians are almost daily in the habit of crossing the Missouri River and robbing the citizens of their grain Cattle and Hogs, the undersigned would earnestly call the attention of your Honor to the necessity of stationing such a portion of the U.S. Troops on our Frontier as effectually to Overawe the Indians, and protect the Citizens of this portion of the State of Missouri from their depredations, and they will ever pray

December 5th 1843

Milton Gootle

J. M. Warmwater

A. A. Braasporo

J. H. Thorpe

and 100 others

S. C. Zuyett

Quen Thorpe

Barnett Crook

To. Hudson

J. H. Rose

James War

Above: Petition signed by over 100 residents of Holt County, Missouri to Secretary of War John M. Porter seeking relief from the 'troublesome' Iowa and Otoe Indians dated December 5, 1843. (Editorial note: This image has been cropped.) National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 77, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City. Real Property Title Files, ca. 1939 - ca. 1985. National Archives Identifier:

Head Quarters 3rd Mil Dept
Saint Louis Mo Feb. 26th 44

Sir

I return herewith the Petition of the Inhabitants of Holt County, Missouri, dated Decemb 5th 1843, calling the attention of the Sec^y of War to the necessity of stationing Troops on that frontier for their protection, & stating that the Indians had become exceedingly troublesome to them - that the wife of a Mr. Laclare had been murdered by the Iowa's, & the house of a Mr. Meier robbed by the Oto's, the latter Indians being in the almost daily habit of crossing the Missouri River, & robbing the citizens of their grain, cattle & hogs - And I also return the letter (of the 7th Inst) from the Hon D. R. Atchison, Governor for this State, vouching "for the respectability of the Petitioners, & to some extent the truth of the statements," these Papers having been referred to me by direction of the Gen^l in chief for my views thereon.

The above complaints against the Indians are new to me, & to the Sup^t of Indian affairs in this city, no Report of them having been made to me or to him, either by the military or civil officers on the frontier - I have however taken measures to ascertain all the facts relating to them, which shall be reported to you without unnecessary delay.

We must all agree with the Petitioners, that the Government is bound to afford protection to the frontier Inhabitants, and I am of the opinion, that the surest mode of affording protection to that part of the frontier where the Petitioners reside is to establish a Military Post on the Missouri River, near the mouth

Below: Letter written by Adjutant General Roger Jones to Colonel Stephen W. Kearny on May 18, 1844 authorizing the Kearny to establish a fort at the mouth of Table Creek. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 77, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City. Real Property Title Files, ca. 1939 - ca. 1985. National Archives Identifier: 26081821

Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, May 18th, 1844.

Sir,

The expediency of establishing a new Post on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table Creek, having been decided by the Secretary of War, the duty of selecting the site and all necessary instructions for the erection of barracks and the requisite defences, are devolved upon you. You will therefore please to take the necessary measures accordingly.

The General-in-chief leaves it to your discretion, whether the garrison shall consist of Infantry or Dragoons, and whether one, or two, companies.

The quarters and defences, with regard to quality and durability, must depend upon the length of time which it may be necessary to maintain this new position; and from your experience and knowledge of our Indian relations in that quarter, it will be for you to determine, whether it should be regarded as merely temporary, or one, for a more permanent occupancy.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

HOURS OF OPERATION: 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.