# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS... A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### Nome Gold Rush and the Founding of Nome (Alaska),1898–1900

In September 1898, Jafet Lindberg, Eric Lindblom, and John Brynteson discovered gold on Anvil Creek in the Cape Nome Mining District. This was the first major new gold discovery after the Canadian Klondike Gold Rush of 1896, and a Gold Rush began immediately. Word of the discovery spread, and more than 3,000 prospectors arrived by early July from the Yukon and the Kobuk River Valley. The effects of the Nome Gold Rush were world-wide, and news quickly spread across the U.S. A stampede from the Yukon Territory occurred all winter and threatened to depopulate Dawson City.

Gold was also discovered in the beach sands at Nome.

gested streets, ferocious traffic jams, steam-heated hotels, beer gardens, several newspapers, wooden planked streets, a railroad, theaters, and about 100 saloons and gambling houses. After 1900, Nome's population declined to about 5,000 through the early years of the 20th century.

The Nome Gold Rush ended in September 1900, three months after it began. Gold discoveries lured people to Nome for another 10 years. Nome's mystique of being a rough and ready frontier town still captures the public imagination of Alaskans and tourists. The 1,000-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome is a reminder that Nome is not a forgotten place, and gold mining continues at Nome today.

On December 23, 1899, a Seattle newspaper reported that after the beach strike Nome became a veritable "poor man's paradise-a land where no man has any excuse for being poor." The easy beach diggings made Nome everyman's gold rush and inspired thousands who traveled to Nome in 1900. In May 1900, 50-60 ships, barges, tugboats, steamers, and ocean liners left for Nome.

At the height of the Nome Gold Rush in 1900, it was a city of nearly 20,000 people. There were con-

"Winter scene, Front Street, Nome [Alaska] " (Photographer Eric A. Hegg)," ca. 1905, Photographs of the Inhabitants of Metlakatla, AK (ARC Identifier 297759) NARA's Pacific Alaska Region, Anchorage





### NARA Postcard Sent to J. G. Shermack; Deputy U. S. Marshal in Galveston, Texas, 1909 Non-Record Material, NARA Southwest Region, Fort Worth, TX





## NARA Midwest December 2007

Exhibit: Blue Springs, MO *Christmas in the Archives* 12/14/07–12/26/07

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Exhibit: **Exhibit:** Kansas City, MO Chicago, IL **Documents of the Season Cinema in the Stacks: The History Behind the** 12/14/07-12/26/07 **Hollywood Storylines** 11/1/07-12/31/07 3 5 2 4 8 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 REGISTRATION CARD-(Men born on or after April 23, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897) SIRIAL D RDER NUMBER 18 16 17 13 KSON MAYSHALL Ma THE PLACE O TE WILL DETE SL DOARD SAMO V.O.N.E alman 23 24 25 minister I ASSESS THAT I HAVE VE D. S. S. Form 5 Clarged 4-1-42 loveri Fourth Registration Draft Card for Santa Claus, 1942 RG 147, World War II, Marshall County, MO NARA's Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO NARA's Great Lakes Region NARA's NARA's National Personnel **NARA's Southwest Region** 

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