

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

# December

# 2008

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## *The Nation's Christmas Tree—A Living Tribute*

In 1924, Charles E. Lee and his daughter visited what was then General Grant National Park (now a part of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks) in the Sierra Nevada of California. As they gazed upon the magnificent giant sequoia known as the General Grant, Lee's daughter exclaimed, "what a wonderful Christmas tree it would be!"

On noon, Christmas Day 1925, Lee organized the first Christmas program held at the General Grant tree. Lee and his fellow members of the Sanger Chamber of Commerce hoped to make the holiday trek to the park an annual ceremony. They proposed their idea to President Calvin Coolidge, who designated the General Grant as the Nation's Christmas Tree on April 28, 1926.

Giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) are the largest living individual things on earth. The General Grant, one of the largest of the species, is over 267 feet tall, 40 inches across its base and over 107 feet around. Estimates of the tree's age range from 1500 to 2000 years old.

At one of the early ceremonies, Col. John White, longtime Park Superintendent, expressed the feelings shared by the annual attendees ...

*"We are gathered here around a tree that is worthy of representing the spirit of America on Christmas Day. That spirit is best expressed in the plain things of life, the love of the family circle, the simple life of the out of doors. The tree is a pillar that is a testimony that things of the spirit transcend those of the flesh."*

During World War II, the Christmas celebration was not held due to gas rationing. Over the next few years, growing local support for the ceremony persuaded the National Park Service to reinstate the annual event.

On March 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the General Grant tree a National Shrine as a living memorial to the men and women of the United States who have given their lives in service to their country. The second Sunday of every December marks the National Park Service's Christmas celebration in the Grant Grove area of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park. Each December park rangers place a wreath at the base of the General Grant tree to remember those who gave their lives defending our nation.



### **RG 79, Records of the National Park Service**

Records of the Office of the Regional Director  
Central Classified Files, 1925-1959  
Central Decimal Site Files, 1926-1959  
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks  
NARA Pacific Region, San Bruno

# NARA West Coast December 2008

**Exhibit:**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Picturing the Century**  
**in the Pacific Northwest**  
**5/6/08-Ongoing**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		2	3	4	5 Casper, WY <b>Historic Preservation Summit-WY Historical Society</b> Conference Archival and Allied Professionals 303-407-5749	6
		9	10	11 Seattle, WA <b>Brick Wall Discussion Group</b> Workshop General Public 206-336-5115	12 Denver, CO <b>National History Day-Using Primary Source Workshop</b> Workshop and Tour K-12 Students 303-407-5749	13
	5	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Seattle, WA</b> <b>Blue vs. Gray: The Civil War</b> <b>in the Pacific Northwest</b> <b>7/1/08-Ongoing</b>		

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# NARA East Coast December 2008

**Woman Officer Saluting, June 17, 1943**  
Commandment and Assistance Chief of Staff, 1st  
Naval District, Prints & Negatives  
RG 181, Records of Naval Districts and Shore  
Establishments  
NARA Northeast Region, Boston



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<p>Waltham, MA <b>Onsite Facility Tour</b> General Public 1:30 P.M. 781-663-0121</p> <p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Your NARA Genealogy Research</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p> <p>Waltham, MA <b>Footnote and Online Resources</b> Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121</p>	Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Series: Immigration Records</b> Workshop Genealogists 215-606-0112	Waltham, MA <b>U.S. Constitution On-Site PDP Lecture</b> 6:30 P.M. Educators General Public 781-663-0121	Philadelphia, PA <b>First Friday Genealogy Open House</b> General Public 215-606-0112	Morrow, GA <b>Georgia Genealogical Society</b> Lecture/Genealogists 770-968-2555
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		<p>New York, NY <b>National History Day Workshop</b> NY Educators/General Public 866-840-1752</p> <p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Federal Census Records</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p> <p>Waltham, MA <b>Norwood Retirement Club Question &amp; Answers</b> 9:45-10:45 A.M. Genealogists/General Public 781-663-0121</p>			Lynn, MA <b>Civil War Roundtable Military Records Lecture</b> 7 P.M. Lecture/General Public 781-663-0121	<p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p> <p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Genealogy on the Internet</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	
	<p>Federal Hall National Memorial, NY <b>New York's National Treasures</b> General Public 866-840-1752</p> <p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Human Rights in the Continental Congress Papers</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p>	<p>New York, NY <b>Finding Family Court Records, 12:30-1:30 P.M.</b> Workshop/General Public 866-840-1752</p>	Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Series: Naturalization Records</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112			<p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Federal Census Records</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p> <p>Pittsfield, MA <b>Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600</p>
21	22		24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
			<p><b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Waltham, MA New England Electoral College Votes!</b> <b>10/30-12/31/2008</b></p>	<p><b>Exhibit:</b> <b>New York, NY Mad Magazine Goes to Court</b> <b>10/1-12/31/08</b></p>	<p><b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Philadelphia, PA Elusive Freedom</b> <b>8/1-9/30/09</b></p>	

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**NARA's Southeast Region**  
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# NARA Midwest December 2008

**The Voice of Sangamon, December 1944**  
 Historical Report of Sangamon Ordnance Plant  
 Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance  
 RG 156, NARA Great Lakes Region, Chicago

Holding an artillery round that she helped manufacture, quality control inspector Gloria Sheaffer of the Sangamon Ordnance Plant, Illiopolis, IL, wishes "Merry Christmas Boys!" to the American armed forces. Ms. Sheaffer's father, brother, and fiancé were respectively in the Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Parkville, MO</b> <b>The Real Deadwood</b> <b>11/17-12/1/2008</b>					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>Lee Summit, MO</b> <b>Wild, Wild Archives</b> <b>12/1-12/15/08</b> <b>Parkville, MO</b> <b>Christmas in the Archives</b> <b>12/1-12/15/08</b>					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Cinema in the Stacks</b> <b>Tucker: The Man and His Dream</b> <b>The Great White Hope</b> <b>Anatomy of a Murder</b> <b>9/1/07-1/1/09</b>		

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**NARA's National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)**  
**Archival Programs Division**  
**St. Louis** 314-801-0850

**NARA's Southwest Region**  
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