

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

# February

# 2009

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## Northeast Region at Boston Explores Lincoln's Legacy of Freedom

Among the records of U.S. District Court of Massachusetts is this small scrap. This Bill of Lading from 1826 details by name and age the specifics of cargo being transported from Baltimore to New Orleans. The cargo (slaves), after slaying the master and mate of the vessel *Decatur*, took control of the vessel. It was subsequently taken over by another vessel, which brought the slaves and the *Decatur* into the port of Boston. At that point, acting on behalf of the owner of the cargo, a representative petitioned USDC for custody of the cargo, that it might be returned to its owner in Baltimore.

The issue of slavery was one our government began to confront in its earliest days. Jefferson would excise the passage about slavery from the Declaration of Independence; the Framers would touch upon it in the Constitution; and Federal legislation in 1794 and 1808 would limit our involvement in the Trade. Although slavery would officially end early in the New England states, and Abolitionism would grow in New England, the lucrative illegal slave trade actually continued up to the Civil War, and the evidence of the New England slave trade is right here at the NARA Northeast Region–Boston.

The illegal trade in human cargo is documented in various records within the Region's holdings. Some of these records are directly associated with the legal challenges to slavery, the illegal importation or international trading of slaves, and records of those who sought to assist the freedom seekers. In the U.S. District and Circuit Court records, one finds slave trade cases from 1796 to 1864. Here also is the first part of the *Amistad* case heard in U.S. Circuit Court in 1839 in which the defendants stated that "they are not now and never were slaves." In the case *U.S. v. Lewis Hayden*, 1851, Lewis Hayden was charged under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 for assisting freedom seeker Frederick (Shadrack) Minkins. Recently one of the Primarily Teaching summer institute participants found fugitive slaves in plain sight within the 1850 census. There are also additional fugitive slave cases and customs records documenting human cargo and contemporary sentiment.

A research priority for the Northeast Region–Boston is to document slavery and the resistance to enslavement. As partners in the

National Park Service Network to Freedom, the Region has enlisted several volunteers to inspect the U.S. District Court records for the New England states, and they have turned up numerous cases in all four coastal states. The Region is putting some of its volunteer resources in this area during FY 2009 and hopes to publish a monograph documenting these important records. All of these records offer a deeper understanding of our history.

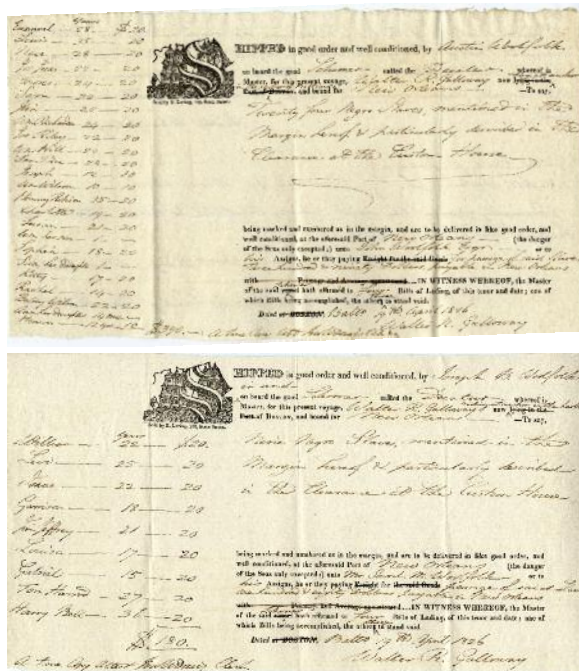
As part of its commitment to studying slavery and the struggles for freedom, NARA Northeast–Boston has several ongoing programs in observance of the Lincoln Bicentennial, Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday, and Black History Month. One of the education programs for grades 5–8 explores the microfilm records of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (Colored). Recently, the Region presented a program for a class from the Fenn School in Concord, MA. Working in groups with the compiled service records of the notable members of the 54th, the students identified the stories that these records tell for each individual. The students also had an opportunity to speak with staff historian Joe Keefe, who led a tour of the Archives and discussed Civil War records.

The Northeast Region–Boston hosted a teacher workshop on document-based questions (DBQs) that focused on the individual documents and accompanying text of the exhibit. Their input will assist in identifying activities for the educational component of the online exhibit.

The Lincoln Bicentennial has been a focus of the Region. Education specialist Annie Davis recently gave a presentation on our Lincoln-related holdings to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Massachusetts in the Governor's office. The Region is collaborating with the Civil War Roundtable of

Boston for a lecture program in April. The Region will also host an open house, tours of the Archives on the hour, a broadcast of the Lincoln Teach-in from Archives I, and a public lecture on Lincoln and the Civil War all on February 12th.

We at Northeast Region–Boston hope it truly is a year that represents a new birth of freedom!



**Bill of Lading Depicting Human Cargo**  
Record Group 21  
Courtesy of Northeast Region–Boston

# NARA WestCoast February 2009

**African American Shore Patrolmen at the  
Newton Street Station in Los Angeles, 1944**  
RG 181, NARA's Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Denver, CO <b>Genealogy Talk and Tour</b> 10 A.M. Genealogists General Public 303-407-5740	10	11	12 Denver, CO <b>History Channel Lincoln Exhibit at Colorado Christian University</b> 2/12/09-2/23/09 Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 303-407-5740	13	14
15 San Francisco, Angel Island <b>Angel Island Immigration Station Grand Re-Opening</b> Information Booth and Exhibit General Public 415-262-4429	16	17	18 Seattle, WA <b>Brick Wall Discussion Group</b> Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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

**Exhibit:**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Blue vs. Gray: The Civil War  
in the Pacific NW**  
9/1/08-Ongoing

**NARA's Pacific  
Region** Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641  
laguna.archives@nara.gov  
San Bruno 650-238-3501  
sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Rocky  
Mountain Region** Denver 303-407-5740  
denver.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Pacific  
Alaska Region**

Seattle 206-336-5115  
seattle.archives@nara.gov  
Anchorage 907-261-7800  
alaska.archives@nara.gov

# NARA EastCoast February 2009

**Eighth Graders from the Fenn School in Concord, MA, Examine RG 94 Compiled Service Records of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry**

Photo by Irina Tsiklik, Archival Fellow, courtesy of Northeast Region, Boston



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Pittsfield, MA <b>Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600  Waltham, MA <b>On-Site Facility Tour 1:30 P.M.</b> General Public 781-663-0130  Waltham, MA <b>African American and Under Documented Populations</b> On-Site Genealogical Lecture Staff General Public 781-663-0130	4	5 Waltham, MA <b>African American History through Federal Records</b> On-Site Education Program 6:30 P.M. General Public 781-663-0130	6 Philadelphia, PA <b>First Friday Genealogy Open House</b> General Public 215-606-0112	7 Morrow, GA <b>Civic Engagement Student Research Conference</b> Undergraduate Students 770-968-2555  United Federation of Teachers Hqtrs, NY <b>Greater Metropolitan of New York Social Studies Conference</b> Conference/K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752
8	9	10 Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Federal Census Records</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	11 Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Series: Introduction to the National Archives</b> Workshop/Genealogists General Public 215-606-0112	12 New York, NY <b>Lincoln-National Teach-In Webcast</b> General Public 866-840-1752  Waltham, MA <b>Lincoln Birthday Open House</b> NARA Mandate Open House/ Hourly Tours Staff General Public 781-663-0130  Waltham, MA <b>Lincoln Bicentennial Teach-In Internet Case</b> General Public 781-663-0130  Lincoln Birthday Open House <b>Onsite Historical Lecture 7 P.M.</b> General Public 781-663-0130	13	14 Waltham, MA <b>African American Historical &amp; Genealogical Society</b> General Public 781-663-0130
15 <b>Exhibit: New York, NY Ella Fitzgerald Goes to Court 1/15/09-3/31/09</b>	16	17 Pittsfield, MA <b>Military Records at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	18 Waltham, MA <b>Family Friendly Introduction to Genealogy</b> On-Site Genealogical Lecture 10 A.M. General Public 781-663-0130  Waltham, MA <b>On-Site Facility Tour 12 P.M.</b> General Public 781-663-0130	20	21 Bethpage Public Library, NY <b>Exploring the 1940 Census</b> Lecture/General Public 866-840-1752  Middletown, CT <b>Navigating the Bureaucracy: Using Federal Websites</b> Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604  Middletown, CT <b>Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at NARA</b> Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604  Morrow, GA <b>Black Family History Day</b> Workshop/Genealogists 770-968-2555	
22 Federal Hall National Memorial, NY <b>New York's National Treasures</b> General Public 866-840-1752	23	24 Pittsfield, MA <b>Genealogy and the Internet</b> Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	25 Philadelphia, PA <b>Genealogical Series: African American Resources</b> Workshop/Genealogists General Public 215-606-0112  Huntington, NY <b>What Court Records Reveal About Your Ancestors, 7-9 P.M.</b> Lecture/General Public 866-840-1752	26 Morrow, GA <b>Douglas County Genealogy Association</b> Workshop/Genealogists 770-968-2555	27 Federal Hall National Memorial, NY <b>New York's National Treasures</b> General Public 866-840-1752	28 Boston, MA <b>Introduction to NARA TAH Grant Windows into America's Past</b> Off-site Education Program General Public 781-663-0130



**Teachers Participating in the "Teaching with Document-Based Questions" Workshop**  
Teachers examine documents from the upcoming "Documented Rights" (Atlanta) exhibit.  
Photo by Annie Davis; Courtesy of Northeast Region-Boston

**Exhibit:  
Philadelphia, PA  
Elusive Freedom  
8/1/08-9/30/09**

**NARA's Northeast Region**  
Pittsfield 413-236-3600  
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

**Boston** 866-406-2379  
waltham.archives@nara.gov  
**New York** 866-840-1752  
newyork.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Mid Atlantic Region**  
Philadelphia 215-606-0100  
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Southeast Region**  
Morrow 770-968-2100  
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

# NARA Midwest February 2009

School Children in Chicago, circa 1961  
RG 21, Records of the U.S. District Court  
NARA, Great Lakes Region, Chicago



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Raytown, MO <b>Genealogical Resources in the Kansas City Area</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8072		Chicago, IL <b>Abraham Lincoln—His Legal Career</b> Symposium/ General Public 312-692-2636	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Kansas City, MO <b>U.S. Military Records</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8012			Chicago, IL <b>Document and Photograph Preservation</b> Workshop/Genealogists 773-948-9001
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



School Children in Chicago, circa 1961  
RG 21, Records of the U.S. District Court  
NARA, Great Lakes Region, Chicago

## Exhibit:

### Cinema in the Stacks

*Tucker: The Man and His Dream*

*The Great White Hope*

*Anatomy of a Murder*

9/1/07–6/30/09

**NARA's Great Lakes Region**  
Chicago 773-948-9001  
chicago.archives@nara.gov

**NARA's Central Plains Region**  
Kansas City 816-268-8000  
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

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

**NARA's Southwest Region**  
Fort Worth 817-831-5620  
ftworth.archives@nara.gov